# Italian Literature

## Prof. Maria Teresa Girardi

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

Focusing on the ethical-civil function of literature, in the first semester, students will be guided in reading, in historical-critical and linguistic-stylistic depth, a coherent choice of cantos from Dante's *Commedia*, a perfect example of poetry of ethical-civil and political value and the founding text of Italian and European literature itself. In the second semester, the course moves on to reading, accompanied by historical-critical and linguistic-stylistic study, an anthology of Italian 20th-century poetic texts on the same theme, with a particular focus on war experienced and rendered lyrically by some of the major poets of the last century.

By examining a selection of authors and texts from the highest Italian tradition that have had a great influence on the European tradition, the course aims to raise students’ awareness of: the particular features of Italian literary history and especially those of its greatest representative; the modes and forms in which Italian literature has manifested itself over time and become tradition; the specific nature of poetic and more generally literary language; and the reasons for which this language is capable not only of interpreting human experience, both individual and collective, but also of shaping it. Moreover, by the end of the course, and after participating in a dedicated seminar, students will have become familiar with the methods for analysing poetry, and particularly lyric texts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

“L’aiuola che ci fa tanto feroci” (Dante, *Pd* XXII 151).

Readings from: Dante Alighieri, *Commedia* (Semester 1)

Anthology of 20th-century poets (Rebora, Ungaretti, Saba, Montale, Caproni)

***READING LIST***

The course texts are available on the course Blackboard page, alongside all the reading-list and other material related to the course.

For the *Commedia*, we recommend the edition edited by A.M. Chiavacci Leonardi, Milan, Oscar Classici Mondadori, 201313.

A course pack of 20th century poems will be provided by the lecturer (on the course BB page).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures. The course will be supplemented a ten-hour seminar/workshop on analysing poetry held by Prof. Giulia Elda Grata. Details of reading material for these sessions, as well as any other learning material will be available on the course Blackboard page.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam on the content of the course and the seminar. The exam will focus on reading, paraphrasing, analysing and commenting on the texts covered on the course and during the seminar, as well as contextualising them on a historical-literary level. Assessment criteria for the oral exam: 50% for paraphrasing and analysing the texts; 50% for commentary and historical-literary contextualisation.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are advised (particularly non-attending students) to consult the course Blackboard platform regularly, where all notices, as well as the teaching materials related to the course and seminar, will be published.

It is desirable to have basic knowledge of the development of Italian literature from the 14th to the 20th century, albeit only in general terms and limited to the main author and canonical works.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG>, or on the Faculty notice board.