# Romanian Language and Literature

## Prof. Alexandra Corina Stavinschi

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

The course aims to provide students with specific skills and expertise in Romanian language and literature, with a focus on contemporary language and 20th century history and literature.

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to reach a good knowledge of:

* the linguistic structures of the Romanian language that are necessary to reach the B1 (low intermediate) level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR);
* the historical development of the Romanian language;
* the most important evolutions of language, also in comparison with the other Romance languages and the idioms spoken in Southeastern Europe;
* the fundamental phases of the linguistic history of Romanian;
* the main movements, authors, and works of 19th and 20th century Romanian literature;
* the literary language used in Romanian poetry and prose during the 19th and the 20th century, with a focus on the historical period between the two world wars.

Ability to Apply Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* master the fundamental linguistic structures of the Romanian language, demonstrating the receptive, interactive and productive skills required for level B1 (lower intermediate) in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR);
* outline the main developmental phases of modern Romanian from Vulgar Latin and reconstruct the synchronic links and diachronic developments with regard to certain linguistic features of Romanian;
* demonstrate knowledge of the most important evolutionary features of Romanian, including the traits that link it to other Romance languages and other Balkan and Carpatho-Danubian languages (the Slavic languages, Hungarian, Greek, Albanian), as well as the unique characteristics that distinguish it;
* understand the ways in which political, social and cultural factors have influenced the linguistic history of Romanian;
* identify the main developmental trends of Romanian literature throughout the 19th and 20th centuries (movements, authors, works);
* linguistically and stylistically analyse short literary texts in Romanian, both verse and prose, from the 19th and 20th centuries, with a focus on the historical period between the two world wars.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1st Semester

*Language:*

* *Phonology*: Romanian phonemes, graphemic system and phonological processes.
* *Noun morphology*: classes of nouns, formation of the plural, two-case declension, the postponed article; classes of adjectives, subject pronouns and oblique forms, prepositions.
* *Verb Morphology*: present indicative of regular and irregular verbs.
* *Syntax*: structure of the simple phrase, use of the genitive/dative case, rection of prepositions, use of tonic pronouns, passive diathesis.
* *Pragmatic knowledge*: say hello, introduce oneself, say thank you, apologise, congratulate, ask for information.

*History of the language:*

* Elements of historical linguistics: the main evolutionary phases from Vulgar Latin to Romanian.
* Romanian in the Carpatho-Danubian and Balkan regional context.

*Literature:*

* The establishment of a Romanian written tradition (16th-18th centuries).
* Romanian literature of the 1800s: Vasile Alecsandri, Mihai Eminescu, Ion Luca Caragiale, Ion Creangă.
* Priority will be given to short texts, particularly relevant for the Romanian literature and culture, which will be presented in bilingual versions; the aim is twofold: to study in depth, revise and memorise linguistic structures thanks to examples from the literature, but also to give a flavour of the Romanian literature in its original version.
* Particular attention will be devoted to the great poets: Vasile Alecsandri, Mihai Eminescu, George Bacovia, Tudod Arghezi, Nichita Stanescu, Adrian Paunescu, Ana Blandiana etc.
* In order to contextualise these works correctly, we will provide notions of Romanian history, geography and culture, besides of course notions of history of the Romanian literature.

2nd Semester

*Language:*

* *Noun morphology*: demonstratives, the genitive and demonstrative articles;
* *Verb morphology*: reflexive verbs, past participle, present perfect, present subjunctive, imperative, imperfect, conditional, future indicative.
* *Syntax*: double pronouns, personal accusative, anticipation and repetition of the clitic pronoun.
* *Pragmatic knowledge*: describe experiences and events, express opinions and emotions, give advice, formulate hypotheses.

*History of the language:*

* The formation of the literary language in the 19th and 20th centuries.

*Literature (single-subject course)*

* Romanian poetry between the two world wars: reading, translation, and comment of texts written by George Bacovia, Tudor Arghezi, Lucian Blaga, and Ion Barbu.

***READING LIST***

M. Cugno, *La poesia romena del Novecento*. *Studio introduttivo, antologia, traduzione e note*, Alessandria, Edizioni dell'Orso, 2008.

L. Pop, *Româna cu sau fără profesor*, Cluj, Echinox, 2003.

V. Negrițescu-N. Nesu, *Grammatica d'uso della lingua romena.* *Teoria ed esercizi livelli A1-B2 del quadro comune europeo di riferimento per le lingue*, Hoepli, Milano, 2014.

V. Negrițescu, *Dizionario di romeno romeno-italiano, italiano-romeno*, con la collaborazione di D. Arrigoni, Hoepli, Milano, 2007.

E. Platon, I. Sonea, D.vȋlcu, *Manual de limba română ca limbă străină (RLS)*, Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, 2019 (ediţie revizuită).

V. Iluțiu (adattamento italiano di A. C. Stavinschi), *Il romeno*, Assimil, Torino, 2019.

***TEACHING METHOD***

All the key topic areas will be addressed in lectures in the order they appear in the syllabus. The lecturer will arrange occasional practical activities in the form of exercises to allow students to assess their understanding of the vocabulary and grammatical structures studied in lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam will be divided into two parts. There will be a written preliminary test to assess grammar and vocabulary knowledge, based on closed questions (completing or transforming words/phrases, matching exercises etc.) and open questions (translation, question/answer); during this assessment, students will be tested on their knowledge and understanding of the linguistic structures of the Romanian language introduced and described in class. Students who receive a sufficient mark will be able to take the final exam, which is based partly on assessing students’ receptive, interactive and productive language skills, and partly on historical linguistic and literary knowledge, with particular regard to the ability to carry on further research on the topics and the issues discussed in class, and analyse the texts studied during the academic year, with a focus on the contents of the single-sublect course. Students can take the exam in two parts, sitting the preliminary test and the final exam on two separate occasions, as long as they are in the same exam session. More details on the exam will be provided during lectures and on Blackboard.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, class attendance is highly recommended.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

The timetable and the teacher’s office hours will be announced at the beginning of the course.