**Italian Literature (with Workshop)**

## Prof. Pierantonio Frare; Prof. Monica Bisi

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

*General education aims:* to teach students the responsibility of words in education; to reflect on the education potential inherent in literary texts; to help recognise in literary texts a model of true dialogue with the others, based on hermeneutic respect and not on overpowering.

*Specific course aims:* to provide students with the technical competences necessary for the understanding and interpretation of Italian literary texts; teach students to recognise the complexity of levels and meanings offered by literary texts; provide the knowledge and tools necessary to reflect on the relationship between literature and the human sciences; allow future kindergarten and primary school teachers to convey to their pupils highly aesthetic and moral words.

*Intended learning outcomes:* at the end of the course, students will be able to place the texts and authors studied in the historical context of Italian literature; to read and understand complex poetry and prose literary texts; to identify their formative and educational value; to apply the acquired knowledge to the building of training paths suitable for the professional contexts in which they will work; to make connections, abstractions and generalisations starting from the data.

*Workshops:* The course is complemented by didactic-workshop activities led by expert conductors and characterised by specific themes and methodologies agreed with the lecturer. Each workshop edition will be aimed at the production of a project/artefact assessed by the conductor on the basis of parameters shared with the lecturer and based on criteria of: completeness, consistency, originality, didactic use.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Part 1. The literature for the formation of the individual: the power of words

a) Words that lead to movement: Dante Alighieri, Inferno I and II

b) Words that prevent: the story of Gertrude: MANZONI, I Promessi sposi, chs. 9 and 10.

c) Words as interpretative model of absurdity: P. LEVI, Se questo è un uomo, ch. II Il canto di Ulisse.

Part 2. The Revolution in a Novel: *I PROMESSI SPOSI*

a) Introduction to *Promessi sposi*

b) Reading, explanation and interpretation of chapters from *Promessi sposi*

***READING LIST***

*1. Textbooks:*

Dante Alighieri, *Commedia* (recommended edition: *Divina Commedia* edited by A. M. Chiavacci Leonardi, Mondadori, Milan 1991), with in-depth knowledge of the work structure and details of the cantos studied in class: *Inferno* I, II, V.

A. Manzoni, *I promessi sposi* (recommended edition: *I promessi sposi*, edited by E. Raimondi – L. Bottoni, Rome, Carocci, 1988: complete reading and in-depth knowledge of the entire work (plot, characters, structure, themes) and details of the chapters studied in class: *Introduction*, chs. I, III, IV, VIII, IX, X, XX, XXI, XXVII, XXXI, XXXIII, XXXIV, XXXV, XXXVI, XXXVIII.

P. Levi, *Se questo è un uomo*, edited by S. Brenna, E. Morosini, Turin, Einaudi scuola, 2010 reading and in-depth knowledge of the entire work (plot, characters, structure, themes) and details of the chapters studied in class (ch. 11).

From the Bible: psalm 50, *Magnificat* (The Gospel of Luke, 1, 39-56)

*2. Essays:*

P. Frare, *Il potere della parola. Dante, Levi, Manzoni*, Novara, Interlinea, 2011.

Giuseppe Ledda, *Leggere la «Commedia»*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2016, chs. I-V.

Pierantonio Frare, *Leggere «I promessi sposi»*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2016.

*“Questo matrimonio non s’ha da fare”. Lettura de “I promessi sposi”*, coordination by Paola Fandella, Pierantonio Frare, Giuseppe Langella, Milano, Vita e Pensiero, 2005 (essays by Elli, Mattesini, Annoni, Paccagnini, Frare, Badini Confalonieri, Farinelli, Girardi, Gaspari, Langella, Bellini).

Recommended website: *[www.alessandromanzoni.org](https://www.alessandromanzoni.org/)*

*3. Recommended readings for teaching:*

*La storia de «I promessi sposi» raccontata da Umberto Eco*, Rome, L’espresso, 2010.

«I promessi sposi» a fumetti. Viaggio semiserio dalle vignette al romanzo, di Stefano Motta, Claudio Nizzi, Paolo Piffarerio, Teka edizioni, 2014.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal and participatory lessons; intervention of external experts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exams, preceded by 10 written questions taken from those listed in the *Questionario propedeutico*. To access the oral exam, students must answer at least nine questions correctly. The examination will test the students’ knowledge of the reading list textbooks and, especially, of the texts: metric and rhetorical structures, summary of the cantos and chapters, literal version, paraphrase, comment, interpretation.

Workshop assessment: according to the decision of the Academic Board for the Degree Programme, a B assessment may increase the exam mark by 0 to 1 point, whereas an A by 0 to 2 points.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

(Please read it with the utmost attention and consideration)

1. Before the oral exam, each student will be assigned ten written questions, randomly chosen among those included in the file named *Questionario propedeutico* (under the section Materiali). Only the students who **correctly** answer nine questions out of ten will be able to continue the exam. **The test will be administered only in case of face-to-face exams and also to students who only need to supplement their credits;** not to students who only have to attend the workshop;

2. Students who are taking the exam on a different programme from the current year’s are required to bring with them a printed copy of the course programme on which they will be examined. Without it, they will not be able to take the exam;

3. Students who have to take the exam are expected to bring with them all the essays and, in particular, all the texts included in the programme, since the exam largely focuses on the reading and explanation of the texts. Students who do not bring the texts and essays will not be allowed to take the exam.

**Programme for students who need to supplement ECTS credits:**

2-3 ECTS credits:

P. Frare, *Il potere della parola. Dante, Levi, Manzoni*, Novara, Interlinea, 2011.

Dante Alighieri, *Commedia* (recommended edition: *Divina Commedia* edited by A. M. Chiavacci Leonardi, Mondadori, Milan 1991), with knowledge of the work structure and the cantos I, II, V of the *Inferno*.

4-5 ECTS credits:

Dante Alighieri, *Commedia* (recommended edition: *Divina Commedia* edited by A. M. Chiavacci Leonardi, Mondadori, Milan 1991), with in-depth knowledge of the work structure and detailed knowledge of the cantos studied in class (Inferno: I, II, V).

P. Frare, *Il potere della parola. Dante, Levi, Manzoni*, Novara, Interlinea, 2011.

Giuseppe Ledda, *Leggere la «Commedia»*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2016 (chs. I-V).

6-7 ECTS credits:

Dante Alighieri, *Commedia* (recommended edition: *Divina Commedia* edited by A. M. Chiavacci Leonardi, Mondadori, Milan 1991), with in-depth knowledge of the work structure and detailed knowledge of the cantos studied in class (Inferno: I, II, V).

A. Manzoni, *I promessi sposi* (recommended edition: *I promessi sposi*, edited by E. Raimondi – L. Bottoni, Milan, Principato, 1988: complete reading and in-depth knowledge of the entire work (plot, characters, structure, themes) and details of the *Introduction*, chs. I, III, IV, VIII, IX, X.

P. Frare, *Il potere della parola. Dante, Levi, Manzoni*, Novara, Interlinea, 2011.

Pierantonio Frare, *Leggere «I promessi sposi»*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2016.

8-9 ECTS credits:

Dante Alighieri, *Commedia* (recommended edition: *Divina Commedia* edited by A. M. Chiavacci Leonardi, Mondadori, Milan 1991), with in-depth knowledge of the work structure and detailed knowledge of the cantos studied in class (Inferno: I, II, V).

A. Manzoni, *The Betrothed* (recommended edition: *I promessi sposi. Storia della colonna infame*, edited by S. Nigro e E. Paccagnini, Milan, Mondadori, 2002): complete reading and in-depth knowledge of the entire work (plot, characters, structure, themes) and details of the following chapters: *Introduction*, chs. I, III, IV, VIII, IX, X, XX, XXI, XXVII, XXXI.

Pierantonio Frare, *Leggere «I promessi sposi»*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2016.

Giuseppe Ledda, *Leggere la «Commedia»*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2016 (the entire textbook except chs. VI, IX, X).

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.