**Italian Literature**

Prof. Francesca D’Alessandro; Prof. Elena Rondena

Module 1: Prof. Francesca D’Alessandro

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

The course aims to discover and show the intrinsic relations that literature holds with cultural heritage, ultimately entitling literature, due to its enduring generative force, to claim to be a creator of monuments as well as a monument in its own right. The books studied at lectures reveal how the Italian literary tradition may be interpreted as a privileged point of encounter, source of symbols and custodian of the past, and also a generator of those collectively acknowledged and shared values on which national/European civilisation and cultural identity are grounded.

The course is therefore divided into a dual theoretical and applicative polarity, with the aim of leading students to acquire knowledge of literary tradition and of fundamental historical-critical turning points.

Particular attention will be paid to the definition of the reality of literary archives and the presentation of the critical and the IT tools required to carry out literary analysis. In both cases, the course will include meetings with subject-matter experts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

* Literature as cultural heritage; methodological introduction.
* Classical roots and Christian roots: Dante and Petrarch.
* The conscience of the modern age: Petrarch and Machiavelli.
* Dante's memory in our time: Montale and Sereni.
* The technical and the IT tools for literary analysis

***READING LIST***

F. D’Alessandro, *Petrarca e i moderni,* *da Machiavelli a Carducci (con un’Appendice novecentesca),* ETS, Pisa, 2007.

F. D’Alessandro, *Manzoni tra san Paolo e Machiavelli,* EDUCatt, Milan, 2012.

F. D’Alessandro-C. Scarpati, *Invito alla lettura di Montale,* Milan, Mursia, 2004.

F. D’Alessandro, *L’opera poetica di Vittorio Sereni*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2010.

E. Montale-S. Solmi, *Ciò che è nostro non ci sarà tolto mai*. Carteggio (1918-1980), edited by F. D’Alessandro, Quodlibet, Rome, 2021.

Additional information on the reading list will be given in class.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures and text analyses will be alternated with direct verification in the city of Milan itself and in situ meetings with the scholars and curators of archives, foundations and libraries.

Frontal lectures are supported by technological aids, multimedia support, podcast and remote video lessons, made available on Blackboard.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Final oral test on the contents of texts proposed in the reading list and on the topics discussed in class. It aims to assess students' acquisition of critical contents, historical context and textual analysis as studied in class. The final mark will take into consideration students' in the subject (60%) adequacy of language (20%), ability to analyse and establish links (10%), and intellectual maturity (10%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since this is a basic introductory course on the subject, there are no special prerequisites for attending it.

Given the training credits system, students are strongly advised to attend classes regularly.

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.

Module 2: Prof. Elena Rondena

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

The course aims to develop, in a detailed and articulated manner, the students’ knowledge of Italian literature of the last two centuries and of the main critical-methodological references of literary modernity.

At the end of the course, students will be able to independently examine a literary text in detail starting from the most functional methods of analysis, and also place it in its historical-cultural context, by outlining a wider overall picture, which further enhances the single text addressed. An additional achievement, besides the analytical part, will be the ability to summarise the work done and correctly present it in oral and/or written form.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*«Enclosing all the evil of our time in one image»*

Since the creation of man and the world, evil has always been the opposite of good (let’s consider, for example, Cain and Abel or Job); it is the contrary of justice, morality, and honesty. It can be physical or psychic, caused by an illness, but also by man. From this last perspective, the course aims to highlight those authors of the Italian literature who lived the great ideologies of the 20th century, and who proved, thanks to their experience, how trivial – and therefore rootless – evil is.

***READING LIST***

\* *Students will have to choose two of the following readings (any edition will be accepted):*

Arslan, *La masseria delle allodole*

De Roberto, *La paura e altri racconti*

Lussu, *Un anno sull’altipiano*

Ungaretti, *Il porto sepolto*

\*  *In addition, they will have to choose two of the following readings (any edition will be accepted):*

Corti, *I più non ritornano*

Corti, *Il cavallo rosso* (students are invited to choose one of the three volumes)

Levi, *Se questo è un uomo*

Mori, *Nata in Istria*

Lecture notes are considered as an integral part of the study material for the exam. Further information on additional material will be made available at the beginning of the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures supported by technological aids and remote video lessons, where required. The teaching materials will be available through course packs and/or on the lecturer's personal web page.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Final oral exam focused on the contents of the textbooks included in the reading list and on the topics addressed in class. It will normally be based on a text commented in the classroom and will aim to verify students’ actual knowledge acquisition of the texts and topics covered by the course. Assessment will also consider students’ clarity of speech and consistent and strong argumentation skills. Furthermore, students’ ability to establish connections and to re-elaborate the contents in a personal way will be particularly appreciated.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Since this is a basic introductory course on the subject, there are no special prerequisites for attending it.

Given the credit system and the nature of the course, attendance is strongly recommended.

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.