# Forms and Genres of Italian Literature

## Prof. Marco Maria Corradini

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

The course aims primarily to deepen students’ knowledge of the development of Italian literature in the early modern age, through historical reconstructions and exercises in textual analysis. Semester 1 will examine the genre of the *pastorale drammatica* through the critical reading of the most representative works and the study of their reception. Semester 2 will explore the theme of poetry in music, focusing on some particular forms such as the polyphonic madrigal of the sixteenth century and the first examples of opera, before finally coming to the contemporaneity era with the songs of Fabrizio De André. By the end of the course, students will: know the formal and content-related characteristics of the literary genres covered; be able to read texts from the Mannerist and Baroque ages in depth, accurately contextualising the works within their cultural era; be able to grasp the literary implications of today’s *canzone d’autore*.

***COURSE CONTENT***

a) The *favola pastorale (pastorale drammatica)*; its development in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

b) Poetry and music from the Renaissance to today: the 16th-century madrigal, the origins of opera, Fabrizio De André’s songs.

***READING LIST***

a)

T. Tasso, *Aminta,* a cura di M. Corradini, Milano, Rizzoli (BUR), 2015 o edd. successive.

T. Tasso, *Aminta*, a cura di D. Colussi e P. Trovato, Torino, Einaudi, 2021.

B. Guarini, *Il pastor fido,* a cura di E. Selmi, introduzione di G. Baldassarri, Venezia, Marsilio, 1999, o altra edizione integrale commentata.

R. Bruscagli, *L’“Aminta” del Tasso e le pastorali ferraresi del ’500*, in *Studi di filologia e critica offerti dagli allievi a Lanfranco Caretti*, Roma, Salerno Ed., 1985, vol. I, pp. 279-318.

C. Scarpati, *Il nucleo ovidiano dell’“Aminta”*, nel suo vol. *Tasso, i classici e i moderni*, Padova, Antenore, 1995, pp. 75-104.

S. Zatti, *Natura e potere nell’“Aminta”*, in *Studi di filologia e letteratura offerti a Franco Croce*, Bulzoni, Roma, 1997, pp. 131-147.

M. Corradini, *L’“Aminta” dei moralisti e l’“Aminta” dei libertini*, «Lettere italiane», 68 (2016), n. 2, pp. 266-305.

b)

S. Ritrovato, *Studi sul madrigale cinquecentesco*, Roma, Salerno Ed., 2015.

A. Martini, *Ritratto del madrigale poetico fra Cinque e Seicento*, «Lettere italiane», 33 (1981), n. 4, pp. 529-548.

P. Fabbri, *Origini del melodramma*, in *Musica in scena. Storia dello spettacolo musicale*, vol. I, *Il teatro musicale dalle origini al primo Settecento*, Torino, Utet, 1995, pp. 59-82.

P. Jachia, *La canzone d’autore italiana 1958-1997. Avventure della parola cantata*, Milano, Feltrinelli, 1998.

W. Pistarini, *Fabrizio De André. Il libro del mondo. Le storie dietro le canzoni*, Firenze-Milano, Giunti, 2018.

The reading list is only provisional. The final reading list will be provided during lectures and students receive study aids.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in the classroom, both frontal and interactive. The students will have to prepare, individually or in groups, papers on topics suggested by the lecturer and jointly agreed upon by the students and the lecturer.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students’ acquired knowledge will be assessed in an oral exam which consists of: 1) questions designed to assess the acquisition of historical facts and theoretical concepts taught during the course and appropriately complemented by compulsory reading; 2) the analysis of literary texts examined during lectures, in which students will have to demonstrate an adequate understanding of formal and content-related aspects. The assessment will be based on the relevance of their replies, the appropriate use of the lexicon of the discipline, the logical structuring of arguments, the ability to make connections. Points 1) and 2) will have an equal weight in the assessment.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In order to attend the course, students must have a basic knowledge of 16th to 18th century Italian Literature. Consequently, students who have not taken the Italian literature course (or an equivalent course at their previous University) during the first-level degree, are advised to catch up through self-study. Upon request, the lecturer is available to provide a relevant reading list.

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.