# Modern and Contemporary Italian Literature (for Students from the Cultural Heritage Degree Programme)

## Prof. Davide Savio

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

The aim of the course is to provide students with a general introduction to Italian literature from the last two centuries, as well as an essential overview of the main trends in modern literature. It also aims to provide a concrete example of these trends through thematic paths, carried out in class, dedicated to specific aspects characterising literary modernity.

By the end of the course, students must be able to demonstrate that they have assimilated the literary, historic and cultural content presented in lectures. They must also be able to demonstrate a sufficient level of independence in terms of the critical analysis of the texts presented on the course and those on the exam reading list; students must also be able to contextualise them within their broad historical-literary background.

***COURSE CONTENT***

First semester:

Italo Calvino and the arts.

The course will focus on the figure of Italo Calvino, in the centenary of his birth (1923-1985). In particular, the course will reveal the versatility of this intellectual figure who was involved in an interdisciplinary manner in writing, publishing, painting, photography, films, music, comics, anthropology, astronomy, industry and much more.

Second semester:

Narration and images of the plains.

The course revolves around the narration of the plains which have stratified during the last century. From Cesare Zavattini to Giovannino Guareschi and Mario Soldati, from Gianni Celati and Giuseppe Pederiali to Mirko Volpi and Marco Belpoliti, writers have recounted the landscape of the plains in close dialogue with television, film and photography, using images to create a shared imagination: an actual anthropological myth.

***READING LIST***

First semester

G. Langella, *La modernità letteraria. Manuale di letteratura italiana moderna e contemporanea*, Pearson 2021, sezioni 4-8 (pp. 201-615).

Choose one of the following books:

Italo Calvino, *Le Cosmicomiche*

Italo Calvino, *Il castello dei destini incrociati*

Italo Calvino, *Le città invisibili*

Italo Calvino, *Palomar*

Italo Calvino, *Se una notte d’inverno un viaggiatore*

Second semester

G. Langella, *La modernità letteraria. Manuale di letteratura italiana moderna e contemporanea*, Pearson 2021, sezioni 1-3 (pp. 1-200).

Choose one of the following books:

Giovannino Guareschi, *Don Camillo*

Gianni Celati, *Fata Morgana*

Gianni Celati, *Narratori delle pianure*

Giuseppe Pederiali, *L’Osteria della Fola*

Mirko Volpi, *Oceano padano*

Marco Belpoliti, *Pianura*

Details of any further reading material will be highlighted and provided on the lecturer’s webpage. Lecture notes are a fundamental part of the exam material. The lecturer will share lecture slides on Blackboard as the course progresses.

Students who are unable to attend all lectures must contact the lecturer to agree on an extended syllabus. Should Dual-Mode continue, the recording of all the lessons will be made available on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures primarily dedicated to reading and contextualising literary texts with the use of digital resources.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be an oral exam. It will normally start with one of the lecture topics, on which acquired knowledge and skills will be tested. As regards the literature reference manual, students will have to prove that they are able to master any subject presented in the volume from a critical and historiographical point of view, not limited to the simple reporting of memorised concepts.

Coherence and soundness of the critical skills demonstrated by students in structuring and supporting their arguments, as well as advanced use of specialist language will count heavily towards their exam result. The ability to make connections between the various texts, authors and literary and cultural phenomena, and to explain them within the relevant historical and geographic context is also an important assessment criterion.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As an introductory course on the study of modern and contemporary Italian literature, there are no particular prerequisites, apart from those developed during prior study. Any gaps in their knowledge will be verified and remedied by means of specific interventions.

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.