# Dantean Philology

Prof. Simona Brambilla

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

The course aims to provide students with preliminary knowledge of philology, in the sense of the history of the tradition and criticism of texts. On the course, students will also read, in full (in class and at home) the of Dante’s *De vulgari eloquentia*, supported with essential knowledge of the main ecdotic problems related to its edition and of the illustration of its most significant turning points of manuscript and print tradition.

At the end of the course, students will: have knowledge of the issues related to the tradition of a text; know the main elements of ecdotics and the techniques required for producing a critical edition; be able to make effective and considered use of philological lexicon; be able to read and comment on a critical edition. Students will also: be able to understand the main problems related to the edition of Dante’s *De vulgari eloquentia*, be familiar with the most significant turning points of manuscript and print tradition and able to illustrate, comment on and discuss the contents regarding.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The aim of the first part, preliminary, of the course is to provide students with a synthetic overview of the tools and methods used in the critical editions of both ancient and modern texts. In particular, the course will focus on: issues in the history and tradition of a text in relation to the world of manuscript and printed books; the procedures for verifying the text, from diplomatic transcription to the critical edition; the categorisation of significant errors; and modes of constructing and using a *stemma codicum.* Moreover, real critical editions will be analysed and an outline of the philology of the author will be provided. The second part of the course will focus on reading and commenting on the *De vulgari eloquentia*, after illustrating the main problems related to its critical edition, the description of the most significant turning points of manuscript and print tradition of the text.

***READING LIST***

A. Stussi, *Introduzione agli studi di filologia italiana,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2015, Fifth edition (except chapter 2).

Dante Alighieri, *De vulgari eloquentia,* a cura di M. Tavoni, Mondadori, Milano, 2017.

S. Bellomo, *Filologia e critica dantesca. Nuova edizione riveduta e ampliata,* La Scuola, Brescia, 2012 (pp. 119-133, 347-349).

Further study materials for lectures will be available during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Knowledge acquired and skills developed will be assessed by means of an oral exam on the topics covered in lectures and addressed in the texts on the reading list to be prepared in full, except where otherwise indicated above, and on the further teaching material made available during the course. The exam is designed to verify whether the learning outcomes have been achieved, and will focus, for all students, on both parts of the course: it will comprise a series of oral questions requiring students to present content, but also to analyse the material illustrated in lectures and demonstrate their ability to comment and understand extracts from the *De vulgari eloquentia*. Students will also be assessed on their critical understanding of course content, relevance of their answers, appropriate use of subject-specific terminology and their ability to formulate well-structured arguments and coherent discourse.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As it is a basic course, it has no specific prerequisites. Students who have not or are not attending the History of the Italian Language course, as well as studying chapter 2 of the textbook by A. Stussi on the reading list, are strongly recommended to familiarise themselves with:

P. D’achille, *Breve grammatica storica dell’italiano,* Carocci, Rome, 2002, or

G. Patota, *Nuovi lineamenti di grammatica storica dell’italiano,* with exercises edited by G. Lauta, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2007.

Also useful:

C. Marazzini, *La storia della lingua italiana attraverso i testi,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2006;

id., *La lingua italiana.* *Storia*, *testi, strumenti*, with L. Maconi, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2010.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG