# Romance Philology

## Prof. Paolo Gresti

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

The first semester is an introduction, and is divided into two parts. (1) Introduction to the basic concepts of Romance linguistics from a historical (i.e. diachronic) perspective, starting from the common Latin matrix, so-called vulgar Latin, with a particular focus on phonetic, morphological and lexical aspects. (2) Reading and analysis of some texts that are particularly representative of the Romance Literatures of the Middle Ages.

In the second, single subject, semester we will address the French epic of the twelfth century through the reading and analysis of some passages taken from the *Chanson de Roland*, the oldest and most significant *chanson de geste* of the Middle Ages.

In terms of expected learning outcomes, by the end of semester 1, students will be able to recognize the most significant phonetic and morphological phenomena of the main Romance languages and describe their development from Latin; they will have had the opportunity to read, translate and comment on the texts proposed in lectures. At the end of the second semester, students will be able to describe the essential lines of the historical-literary development of the medieval epic, in particular French, as well as read, translate and comment philologically, metrically and literally on the passages of the *Chanson de Roland* presented during the semester.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Semester 1

*(1) From Latin to Romance languages.*

*(2) Romance literatures during the Middle Ages*

Semester 2

L’epica in Francia nel XII secolo: la "Chanson de Roland"

***READING LIST***

Semester 1:

P. Gresti, *Introduzione alla linguistica romanza*, Pàtron, Bologna 2016.

P. Gresti, *Antologia delle letterature romanze del Medioevo*, Pàtron, Bologna 20112 ( the texts read and commented in class).

Lecture notes.

Semester 2:

a) For all students

A. Limentani-M. Infurna, *L’epica romanza nel Medioevo*, il Mulino, Bologna 2007.

P. Gresti, *Antologia delle letterature romanze del Medioevo,* Pàtron, Bologna, 20112: seven texts chosen from section B *Epica*, excluding the *Chanson de Roland*.

Lecture notes and texts read and commented on in class.

Additional reading references will be provided during the course.

b) For graduate degree

As well as the texts under point a), graduate’s students must also read:

(1) C. Segre, *Introduzone* a *La Canzone di Orlando*, a cura di M. Bensi, Rizzoli (BUR), Milano 1985 (e successive ristampe)

(2) C. Segre, *Esperienze di un editore critico della «Chanson de Roland»*, in Idem, *Ecdotica e comparatistica romanze*, Ricciardi, Milano-Napoli 1998, pp. 11-21 (già in C. Segre, *Due lezioni di ecdotica*, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa 1991).

(3) Due saggi a scelta di C. Segre, *La tradizione della «Chanson de Roland»*, Ricciardi, Milano-Napoli 1974.

The texts read and commented during semester 2 will be distributed in photocopy and made available on Blackboard, where other materials will also be uploaded for exam preparation, for both semesters.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam, based on general open-ended questions and reading and analysis of one or more texts selected among the ones explained during the course, or included in the reading list; students will be asked to read them using a photocopy or a textbook provided by the lecturer. The open-ended questions may precede or follow the reading and analysis of texts. Assessment criteria: knowledge of the subject, clarity of presentation, and use of appropriate terminology.

The Bachelor’s degree students enrolled in the annual course (12 ECTS credits) will be allowed to split the final exam into two different tests (one for each semester). Also in this case, there will be just one final mark. Further information will be provided at the beginning of the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are invited to check the lecturer’s webpage and Blackboard on a regular basis.

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should show a certain curiosity towards the subject. Furthermore, a basic knowledge of Latin may help them get a better understanding of the key elements of linguistics introduced during semester 1.

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.