# Italian Literature 2

## Prof. Roberta Ferro

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

The course aims to provide students with an essential overview of the development of Italian literature between 1500 and 1700. The aim of the course is to provide students with a critical and updated perspective on the literary culture of modern age. It will also reconstruct the broader literary panorama and incorporate timely readings of relevant texts.

At the end of course, students will know the main authors and works of the Italian Renaissance and Baroque periods and of the 1700s, being able identifying their historical and geographical contexts, their genres and characteristic themes. They will be able to distinguish, within this literary tradition, elements of style and enduring cultural values, identifying their presence in current civilisation. They will also be able to conduct analytical exercises on poetry and prose texts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into two modules which correspond to the two semesters over which the course is taught:

A. The Renaissance of the moderns: the 16th century of Machiavelli, Ariosto and Tasso.

B. The past in the literature of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: poetry of the ruins and racing with the ancients.

***READING LIST***

*12 ECTS credits*

Module A:

L. Ariosto, *Orlando furioso* (recommended edition edited by C. Zampese, Rizzoli-BUR, Milan, 2012): cantos I, XII, XXIII, XXXIV, XXXV.

T. Tasso, *Gerusalemme liberata,* whole text (recommended edition edited by F. Tomasi, Rizzoli-BUR, Milan, 2009).

N. Machiavelli, *Il Principe,* whole text (recommended editions edited by G. Inglese, Turin, Einaudi, 2005 or R. Ruggiero, Milan, Rizzoli-BUR, 2008).

Recommended background reading for *Orlando furioso* and *Gerusalemme liberata*:

S. Zatti, *Leggere l’«Orlando furioso»,* Bologna, Il Mulino, 2016

E. Russo, *Guida alla lettura della «Gerusalemme liberata» di Tasso,* Rome-Bari, Laterza, 2014.

Module B:

Further bibliographical information and a course pack will be provided by the lecturer at the beginning of the semester.

*For 6 ECTS credits*

Students who only intend to take 6 ECTS credits are recommended to attend the first semester. In addition to the reading list for Module A, students must also read G. Alfano-C. Gigante-E. Russo, *Il Rinascimento.* *Un’introduzione al cinquecento letterario italiano,* Rome, Salerno Editrice, 2016.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures covering the two modules of the syllabus.

There will be two in-depth seminars for the purpose of consolidating knowledge of the main developments in the history of Italian literature between 1500 and 1700. Schedule and detailed programme for the seminars will be provided by the lecturer during lectures and published in the virtual classroom.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

*For 12 ECTS credits*

The exam is divided into two parts, both mandatories: one preliminary interview ~~t~~ and one final oral exam.

In the preliminary interview, students will be assessed on their knowledge of the main historical developments in Italian literature from the 16th-18th centuries. In preparation, students may use a good high-school textbook or recent specialist texts. We recommend: P. Frare-S. Brenna, *Dalle origini a Leopardi*. *La letteratura italiana e le sue grandi opere*, Torino, Pearson, 2023; alternatively: G. Alfano-P. Italia-E. Russo-F. Tomasi, *Letteratura italiana. Manuale per studi universitari*, I, *Dalle origini a metà Cinquecento*; II, *Da Tasso a fine Ottocento*,Milan, Mondadori Università, 2018. Preliminary interviews are organized on a monthly basis starting from the end of the first semester. The oral exam will focus on the content of lectures and knowledge of the texts on the reading list (module A and B).

The final assessment will be based in equal measure on the results of the two oral interviews, taking into account, in both cases, accuracy of the responses (75%) and communicative and discursive abilities demonstrated (25%).

*For 6 ECTS credits*

In the exam, which will be conducted orally, students will be asked questions relating to the lectures of whichever semester they attended; however, students are strongly recommended to attend semester 1 on the 16th century.

Final assessment will be based on accuracy of the responses (75%) and communicative and discursive abilities demonstrated (25%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students require essential knowledge of the main characteristics of the periods covered by the course, as well as general skills in reading and analysing literary texts.

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.