# History of the Italian Language (with Writing Workshop)

## Prof. Simone Pregnolato; Prof. Michele Colombo

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Module 1 (not repeatable)

Aim: to develop a critical awareness of Italian in its diachronic development, taking both an internal and external perspective on the language.

Advanced Module (= Module A, repeatable)

Aim: to introduce the perspectives and tools of analysis regarding particular aspects or texts of the history of the Italian language.

At the end of the course, students will possess:

(*a*) knowledge of the distribution – in geographic and historical terms – of the ancient Italian language and its varieties;

(*b*) in-depth knowledge of the graphic, phonetic, morphological and syntactic structures of ancient and modern Italian;

(*c*) an understanding of the general historical lines of Italian, from Vulgar Latin to the language of today, of its spread across the area, and of its different linguistic varieties;

(*d*) the ability to problematise labels and categories characterising the linguistic analysis of ancient and modern Italian;

(*e*) the ability to identify and problematise issues and problems related to historical linguistics;

(*f*) a critical ability in the linguistic and stylistic analysis of ancient and modern texts, with competence in recognising their geographical location and their main historical-grammatical phenomena;

(*g*) a full command of the technical vocabulary of philological-linguistic sciences.

At the end of the Disciplinary Teaching Workshop, students will be able to address the complexity of teaching Italian at school, recognise its different components (listening/speaking, writing, reading, grammar, vocabulary) and put into practice activities, paths and corrections aimed at promoting linguistic improvement in secondary school students.

At the end of the Writing Workshop, students will know the characteristics of an academic text and the tools needed for writing one, will be able to find and organise materials and sources, write notes and citations, structure the bibliography, apply these skills in written tests, and – finally – produce texts that are appropriate from the linguistic, editorial and conceptual organisation point of view.

COURSE CONTENT

Module 1 (1st Semester - Prof. Simone Pregnolato)

*General course*: Foundations of historical grammar and linguistic history of Italian.

Module A (2nd semester - Prof. Michele Colombo)

*Single-subject course*: Ancient medieval vulgars.

READING LIST

Module 1

Notes from the lectures and any teaching materials provided by the lecturer.

Michele Colombo - Simone Pregnolato, *Elementi di grammatica storica dell’italiano (a.a. 2023/2024)*, Lecture notes deposited at the University's Copying Office.

Giuseppe Patota, *Nuovi lineamenti di grammatica storica dell’italiano*, With exercises edited by Gianluca Lauta, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2007 ("Itinerari - Linguistica").

*Storia dell’italiano. La lingua, i testi*, Directed by Giovanna Frosini, Rome, Salerno Editrice, 2020 ("Strumenti per l’Università", 10).

Non-attending students will replace the lecture notes with:

Luca Serianni, *Prima lezione di storia della lingua italiana*, Rome-Bari, Laterza, 2015 ("Universale Laterza", 949).

Daniele Baglioni, *L’etimologia*, Rome, Carocci, 2016 ("Bussole - Linguistica", 520).

Module A

Notes from the lectures and any teaching materials provided by the lecturer.

Rosa Casapullo, *Il Medioevo*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1999 ("Storia della lingua italiana") [*Parte prima*, pp. 15-252].

Students of the graduate degree will also add:

Rosa Casapullo, *Il Medioevo*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1999 ("Storia della lingua italiana") [*Antologia di testi*: text 2, pp. 261-70; text 3, pp. 270-75; text 7, pp. 296-306; text 11, pp. 324-29; text 17, pp. 358-66; text 18, pp. 366-73; text 20.1, pp. 375-79].

Pietro G. Beltrami, *Duecento e Trecento, lingua del*, in *Enciclopedia dell 'Italiano*, Rome, Istituto della Enciclopedia italiana, 2010, pp. 403-9 (also available online at Treccani.it).

Alvise Andreose - Lorenzo Renzi, *Volgari medievali*, in *Enciclopedia dell’Italiano*, Rome, Istituto della Enciclopedia italiana, 2011, pp. 1592-97 (also available online at Treccani.it).

Rosario Coluccia, *Scripta*, in *Enciclopedia dell’Italiano*, Rome, Istituto della Enciclopedia italiana, 2011, pp. 1287-90 (also available online at Treccani.it).

For Module A, any reading list replacing the lecture notes must be agreed in person with Prof. Colombo during office hours.

For all the volumes in the *Reading List* students may freely choose reprints of years later than those indicated.

Disciplinary Teaching Workshop

Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università e della Ricerca, *Indicazioni nazionali per il curricolo della scuola dell’infanzia e del primo ciclo d’istruzione* [*Finalità generali*, pp. 9-11; *La scuola del primo ciclo*, pp. 24-27; *Italiano*, pp. 28-36].

Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università e della Ricerca, *Documento di orientamento per la redazione della prova d'italiano nell'Esame di Stato conclusivo del primo ciclo*.

Luca Serianni - Giuseppe Benedetti, *Scritti sui banchi. L’italiano a scuola tra alunni e insegnanti,* Rome, Carocci, 2015 ("Quality Paperbacks", 453).

Writing Workshop

Michele Colombo, *Scrivere la tesi di laurea e altri testi*, Milan, Mondadori Università, 2006.

Any further reading list information will be provided at the start of the Writing Workshops.

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal lectures; additional seminar lectures; workshop lectures.

1st Semester

*(a)* Module 1 includes an introductory seminar on the main events and texts of Italian linguistic history (Prof. Paolo G.M. Maino), held during the 1st Semester in parallel with the historical grammar lectures of Prof. Pregnolato.

(*b*) During the 1st Semester, a Disciplinary Teaching Workshop is also held (Prof. Paolo M.G. Maino), without channeling, which can be combined with both Module 1 and Module A, and aimed at familiarising students with some significant aspects of Italian teaching in secondary school. This Workshop is reserved for those students who included the History of the Italian Language exam in their degree curriculum with the wording *con elementi di didattica disciplinare* (with elements of disciplinary teaching).

2nd Semester

(*c*) In the 2nd Semester, in parallel with the Module A lectures of Prof. Colombo, four Writing Workshops are held (Prof. Alessandro Italia, Daniela Graffigna, Paolo M.G. Maino, Lucia Negri), which can be combined in the degree curriculum with Module A only, and are aimed at the acquisition of academic writing skills (providing ongoing guided exercises). Students are channelled ex officio to one of the four Writing Workshops (all identical and alternative) depending on the initial of their surname.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Module 1

Oral exam, preceded, where appropriate, by a "Pass" assessment obtained in the Disciplinary Teaching Workshop. The assessment is based on one or more questions covering each of the volumes in the *Reading List*. The student's knowledge of historical grammar, preparatory to passing the entire exam, is often tested through the submission of a Latin etymology and/or its Italian result – to be transcribed in the International Phonetic Alphabet – and asking for the reason for the linguistic change that occurred. The student's knowledge of the Italian language history is usually assessed by starting with an analysis of the texts anthologised in the reference manual or addressed during the Seminar.

Module A

Oral exam, preceded by a pass mark (out of 30) in the Writing Workshop and, where appropriate, by a "Pass" assessment obtained in the Disciplinary Teaching Workshop. The assessment is based on one or more questions covering each of the volumes in the *Reading List*, with each contributing the same weight to the final mark.

Workshops

The assessment of the Writing Workshop combined with Module A is based on a written task assigned during the lectures (*Exam for attending students*) or on the so-called *Exam for non-attending students* (= *PNF*), administered at the beginning of each exam session (therefore during an academic year there are three PNFs, usually in the months of September, January and June; see also *below*, under the heading *Notes and prerequisites*, point *a*). The mark obtained for the Writing Workshop is the starting point for the oral exam assessment.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

For all information relating both to the taking of the course and the Workshops, and to the operation and partitions of the History of the Italian Language exam, it is strongly recommended to read the *Notes on the History of the Italian language course and exam - Milan* published on the electronic bulletin board of the *Notices* of Prof. Pregnolato (*https://docenti.unicatt.it/ppd2/it/docenti/55967/simone-pregnolato/avvisi*).

Only a few particularly important points are made here.

(*a*) *Prerequisites and preparation*: to address the study of Italian historical grammar, knowledge of the Latin language is required, acquired from five-year high school studies and/or from the Latin Literature I exam.

(*b*) We remind students that Module 1 is preparatory to Module A and, due to its general nature, is not repeatable.

(*c*) The Disciplinary Teaching Workshop serves to obtain 6 ECTS valid for the FIT Pathway in the Scientific-Disciplinary Sector L-FIL-LET/12 - *Italian Linguistics*. The Disciplinary Teaching Workshop must be attended by all students who have included a History of the Italian Language course, worth 6 or 12 ECTS, in their degree curriculum with the wording *with elements of disciplinary teaching*. On the other hand, those who have included the History of the Italian Language course without the addition of *with elements of disciplinary teaching* in their degree curriculum, should not attend the Disciplinary Teaching Workshop and will not obtain the FIT Pathway's 6 ECTS in the L-FIL-LET/12 sector.

(*d*) The Writing Workshop must be attended by all students who have not already done so and who have included Module A of "History of the Italian Language" in their degree curriculum, irrespective of whether Module A is taken on its own or as part of the annual 12 ECTS course. Those who could not attend the Writing Workshop are required to take a substitute written test, the *PNF*. The dates of the PNF (one for each exam session) are published in the online register of *Notices*, on the Lecturer's Personal Page of Prof. Pregnolato and Prof. Colombo; on both bulletin boards there are also useful indications for those taking the exam.

(*e*) The marks obtained for the Workshop written assignments (writing and disciplinary teaching) never expire. In addition, the mark obtained for the Writing Workshop cannot be refused.

(*f*) For students who attend Module A and for those who have the 12 ECTS course in their degree curriculum, the first effective session in which to take the oral exam is the summer session. This means that there are no programme subdivisions for those covering the entire year of History of the Italian Language in the exam, not even within the same exam session.

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.