**German Literature**

## Prof. Elena Raponi

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

Semester 1:

***Course aims***

This general course aims to familiarise students with knowledge of German literature of the 20th and early 21st centuries through critical reading, in full or in part, of the most emblematic narrative texts of the period, representative of the different German-speaking areas (in particular Germany, Austria and Switzerland). The course also aims to develop in students the ability to analyse and interpret the texts on the syllabus in the German language, using the essential terminology of the *Literaturwissenschaft*.

Finally, the course aims to familiarise students with the academic production related to the texts on the syllabus.

***Intended learning outcomes***

*Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will have acquired the historical and literary knowledge necessary to navigate the trends in German literature of the 20th and early 21st centuries. They will also have acquired the German terminology specific to literary discourse, for the narrative genre.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

Students will be able to correctly translate into Italian, understand, analyse and interpret the literary texts on the syllabus, and place them in their historical, historical-literary and historical-cultural context.

Students will also be able to accurately recall, in Italian, the content of academic studies related to the texts on the syllabus.

Semester 2:

***Course aims***

The single-subject course aims to introduce students to the work of Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (1729-1781), through the critical reading of two works of theatre: The play *Minna von Barnhelm*, *oder das Soldatenglück*, and the dramatic poem *Nathan der Weise*. The course also aims to develop in students the ability to analyse and interpret the texts on the syllabus, using the essential terminology of the *Literaturwissenschaft*. Finally, the course aims to familiarise students with the academic literature in German related to the texts on the syllabus.

***Intended learning outcomes***

*Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will have acquired the literary and historical knowledge necessary to navigate the work of Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. They will also have learned the German terminology specific to literary discourse on works of theatre.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

Students will be able to correctly translate, understand, analyse and interpret the literary texts on the syllabus, and place them in their historical, historical-literary and historical-cultural context.

Students will also be able to accurately discuss, in German, the content of academic studies in German related to the texts on the syllabus.

*Independence of judgement and communication skills*

Students will be able to express and explain in writing their own opinions on the characters, actions and themes present in texts on the syllabus.

***COURSE CONTENT***

## Semester 1:

*General course:* “Deutsche Literatur vom Expressionismus bis zur Gegenwart”.

## Semester 2:

*Single-subject course:* Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (1729-1781). *Minna von Barnhelm, oder das Soldatenglück* e *Nathan der Weise*.

***READING LIST***

Semester 1

- Elena Raponi, *Deutsche Literatur vom Expressionismus bis zur Gegenwart. Texte* - academic year 2023/2024 (course pack available from September 2023 the photocopy office, Largo Gemelli).

- Elena Raponi, *Franz Kafka, „Auf der Galerie“*, in «Nuova Secondaria», 8, April 2022, pp. 87-91 (available from Blackboard).

- Plus reading in full of: Anneliese Knoop-Graf und Inge Jens (Hrsg. von), *Willi Graf. Briefe und Aufzeichnungen*. Mit einer Einleitung von Walter Jens, 2. Auflage, Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag; Frankfurt a.M. 2004 (only mandatory reading is pp. 111-201: *Briefe*, with the relative notes in the “Anmerkungen” section).

For the history of 20th century literary institutions, see the textbook:

Bengt Algot Sørensen, *Geschichte der deutschen Literatur*, Bd. 2. *Vom 19. Jahrhundert bis zur Gegenwart*, 4. aktualis. Aufl., Verlag C.H. Beck, München 2016.

For any further optional reading, we recommend the following volumes:

E. Bahr (ed.), *Geschichte der deutschen Literatur: Kontinuität und Veränderung vom Mittelalter bis zur Gegenwart*, Francke Verlag, Tübingen 1987, vol. 3: *Vom Realismus bis zur Gegenwartsliteratur*.

dtv: *Deutsche Literaturgeschichte*, Bd. 8: *Wege in die Moderne 1890-1918*, Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag, München 1997 (and subsequent volumes: Bd. 9, Bd. 10, Bd. 11, Bd. 12).

C. Buglioni, M. Castellari, A. Goggio, M. Paleari, *Letteratura tedesca. Epoche, generi, intersezioni. Dal Medioevo al primo Novecento*, Le Monnier Università, Florence 2019.

C. Buglioni, M. Castellari, A. Goggio, M. Paleari, *Letteratura tedesca. Epoche, generi, intersezioni. Dal primo dopoguerra al nuovo Millennio*, Le Monnier Università, Florence 2019.

M. Dallapiazza, C. Santi, *Storia della letteratura tedesca*. 3. *Il Novecento*, Editori Laterza, Rome/Bari 2001.

Details of further reading material will be provided during the course.

Semester 2

- G.E. Lessing, *Nathan der Weise*. *Ein dramatisches Gedicht in fünf Aufzügen*, hrsg. von Thorsten Krause, Reclam, Stuttgart 2021 [Reclam XL Text und Kontext].

- G. E. Lessing, *Minna von Barnhelm, oder das Soldatenglück. Ein Lustspiel in fünf Aufzügen*, verfertiget im Jahre 1763. Textausgabe mit Anmerkungen/Worterklärungen. Anm. von Jürgen Hein, Reclam Verlag, 120 S., ISBN: 978-3-15-000010-6.

- Monika Fick, *Lessing-Handbuch*, vierte, aktualisierte und erweiterte Auflage, Metzler Verlag, Stuttgart 2016.

- Materials (slides, any critical essays or essays for background reading) uploaded to the course Blackboard page.

Details of further reading material will be provided during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

In semester 1, the course will be delivered by means of frontal lectures with slideshow presentations. In semester 2: frontal lectures accompanied by practical guided individual activities, such as the presentation and oral (in class) or written (remotely, via Blackboard) discussion of content, characters and themes encountered in the texts on the syllabus. The course will be delivered partly in Italian, partly in German.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam which will take place in both Italian and German. The oral exam, which is based on open questions, includes: 1) reading aloud and translation: students must demonstrate that they have acquired the vocabulary and linguistic structures of the texts on the syllabus; 2) they must demonstrate their ability to analyse and interpret the texts on the syllabus, and that they can place them in the relevant historical and literary context. Students must also be able to accurately recall (in Italian for semester 1) the content of academic studies related to the texts on the syllabus.

The final mark (out of 30) is based on the first part (50%) and the second part (also 50%): to pass the exam, students must pass both parts (i.e. score at least 18/30 in each one). Key assessment criteria include: linguistic and terminological correctness and precision, clarity of presentation, and the ability to organise their arguments.

For students in the third year of the three-year course only: the final mark is the weighted average of the results of the interim written and oral language tests.

For students on the LLS profile of the three-year degree and for students on the master’s degree only: 25% of the mark obtained in the second part of the semester-2 exam is based on participation in the individual guided practical activities.

The syllabus is the same for attending and non-attending students.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course lasts one year for students enrolled in the third year of the three-year degree in Linguistics on the LLS (Foreign Languages and Literature) profile and for first- and second-year students on the master's degree.

The course lasts one semester for students enrolled in the third year of the three-year degree in Linguistics on the LCMCD (Languages, Communication, Media and Digital Culture), and the LMT profile (Language for Management and Tourism). Semester students on the LMT and LCMCD profiles are required to take the exam on the syllabus of semester 1.

Students on the year-long course: To be eligible for the oral exam on the semester-2 syllabus, students must have passed the oral exam on the semester-1 syllabus.

The course will be complemented by 20 hours of practical classes taken by Prof. Gloria Colombo (10 hours for the students on the three-year degree and 10 hours for the students on the master's degree), introducing students to literary translation.

Students are encouraged to regularly check the lecturers’ online pages and course pages on Blackboard for additional learning materials and notices. All the necessary instructions for preparing for the exam are available on the course Blackboard page.

*Prerequisites*

Language proficiency at least equal to level B2 in the CEFR.

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.