**English Literature (Master’s Degree)**

## Prof. Enrico Reggiani

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

This course aims to help students to consolidate their “specialised” textual skills, also known as literary competence. The key historical-literary coordinates, theoretical foundations, compositional practices, and cultural models of the texts will be examined in order to produce increasingly interdisciplinary interpretations according to methodological principles summarized in the “context in the text” concept. In particular, the course will focus on the analysis of the communicative dynamics of different text types from the point of view of specific and up-to-date theoretical perspectives (literary culturalism, textual politics, etc.).

At the end of the course, students will be able to get a deeper understanding of the textualisation/literalisation process, interpret its most important features (e.g. from a linguistic-translational, literary, cultural, analytical-hermeneutic, theoretical, historical, social, political, and institutional point of view), give their opinion in specific communicative situations, and improve their self-learning and meta-learning skills.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Irish poetry in English, 1800-2000.*

Semester 1: Irish poetry in English 1800-2000: from texts to cultures via poetic theories and practices.

Sessions in the first semester will have the characteristics of an analytical and hermeneutic workshop. The nineteenth and twentieth century Irish poetic and cultural scene will be reconstructed by analysing a number of notable poetic texts selected from those most widely cited and commented on in Justin Quinn's work (indicated in the reading list).

Semester 2: *Irish poetry in English.* A case study: W. B. Yeats (1865-1939)

The course will examine the poetry of W. B. Yeats, with specific reference to theoretical reflection, processes of textual production, dynamics of textual politics, critical reception and key translation issues.

Sessions in the second semester will have the characteristics of a single-subject course, that is, a course “focusing on a single issue and/or writer”, “examining a particular period in some depth”; it is conceived as a “problem course” during which “students are taught ‘how to think’ rather than ‘what happens’” and whose “contents are usually determined by the scholarly interest of the staff”.

***READING LIST***

Theoretical foundations

E. Reggiani, *La letteratura tra lingua, testo e culture: una cassetta degli attrezzi: 24 slide*s, 2023 (ppt available from the MATERIALI section of the course Blackboard page)

E. Reggiani, *Per una scienza della letteratura realistica e integrale. Brevi note introduttive*, (**version 2023)** (PDF available from the MATERIALI section of the course Blackboard page)

Semester 1

J. Quinn, *The Cambridge Introduction to Modern Irish Poetry, 1800-2000*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2008.

E. Reggiani (edited by), *Anthology of full texts of poems mentioned in Quinn’s Cambridge Introduction to Modern Irish Poetry, 1800-2000* (PDF available from the MATERIALI section of the course Blackboard page)

Semester 2

W. B. Yeats, *Major Works*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, ultima ristampa.

M. Howes – J. Kelly (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to W. B. Yeats*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2006 (PDF available from the MATERIALI section of the course Blackboard page)

E. Reggiani, *The compl[i]mentary dream, perhaps. Saggi su William Butler Yeats*, Roma, Aracne, 2010.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course has a duration of one academic year. Lectures will be delivered in the most appropriate language for the learning objectives and expected outcomes and focus on the key concepts and methodologies that are necessary to carry out an accurate analysis of the texts examined in class, also from the point of view of their historical, social, cultural, institutional, etc. context. They will be mainly frontal, but focused on the interaction with students and based on an interdisciplinary approach. Each text will be analysed in detail, especially from the point of view of its inter-literary and extra-literary elements, its importance, its function within the literalisation framework, and its contribution to the whole literary work under analysis. Further material will be made available in class and on Blackboard by the end of the course.

Students may also be invited to participate in seminars/workshops relevant with the course syllabus, to produce critical studies (written and/or oral) on individual texts within the framework of the course and in collaboration with the lecturer, and then present these to their colleagues and/or to a wider audience.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment method includes oral examinations on ALL the required course reading, including the didactic materials provided on Blackboard. The oral exam will be held in the most appropriate language for the learning objectives and expected outcomes. Students will be tested on their skills in three different fields: the linguistic-translational, the analytical-hermeneutic, and the literary-cultural (75% of the overall assessment). Furthermore, they will be asked to identify, evaluate, and interpret in an autonomous way the interdisciplinary elements of the texts under analysis (25% of the overall assessment).

Any extra activity taking place during the course (as the ones mentioned above in the *TEACHING METHOD* section) will be taken into account to determine the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In terms of content, students attending this course are supposed to have an adequate knowledge of English literature explained during the previous three years; in terms of method, instead, students should be eager to experience new ways to acquire and strengthen their critical autonomy, with a strong inter- and trans-disciplinary approach, in order to seek for a more mature interpretation and a proper historical, sociocultural, and institutional contextualisation of the texts under analysis.

In order to facilitate educational interaction and the consolidation of critical autonomy, students are encouraged to consult Prof. Enrico Reggiani’s social media accounts and blog (*enricoreggianiblog. A blog on literature, music and other crossings*, <https://enricoreggiani.wordpress.com/>), which contain materials and input for learning the course content, some of which has been contributed by students and graduates from previous academic years.

Course content might be subject to changes during the didactic activity. The final version of the course syllabus will be made available on the lecturer’s webpage and on Blackboard before the end of the course, so students are invited to regularly check them. Furthermore, students are supposed to follow the Code of Ethics issued by the Catholic University and accepted during their enrolment.

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.