**Comparative Literatures**

## Prof. Federico Bellini

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

The course is divided into two parts. The first part is general in nature and aims to introduce students to the study of comparative literature, defining the areas of investigation and the conceptual tools of the discipline, covering its history up to the most recent developments. The second section focuses on a single topic: literary representations of habit during the 20th century as a crucial theme of modernity. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply the acquired conceptual tools to undertake independent research in the field of comparative literature and to support their own interpretations of literary texts appropriately.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The general section of the course will introduce the fundamental conceptual tools of the comparative study of literature – theme, genre, intertextuality and canon – and some of the liveliest research areas, offering a definition of the field of investigation and of the epistemology of the discipline in light of its historical evolution and relationship with associated disciplines. The discussion will be accompanied by the presentation of numerous examples aimed at testing the effectiveness and limits of the individual instruments and of the various theories. The section dedicated to the literary representations of habit will be divided into four modules, each dedicated to a distinct facet of the theme: habit and memory, habit and the everyday, habit and addiction, habit and discipline. For each module, the approach to the literary text will be based on non-literary texts serving to provide respective historical-cultural contexts and develop interdisciplinary dialogues.

***READING LIST***

NB: The course will be conducted in Italian, but those with the relative language skills are encouraged to read the texts in the original language.

*General part*

F. De Cristofaro (2020) *Letterature Comparate*, Roma: Carocci 2020. (Optional)

*Single-subject course*

F. Bellini(2021). *Un'identità minore. Percorsi sull'abitudine fra letteratura e filosofia*. Milano: Vita e Pensiero*.*

S. Beckett (2009). *Krapp's Last Tape and Other Shorter Plays*. London: Faber and Faber.

C. Coccioli (2020). *Uomini in Fuga*. Torino: Lindau.

M. Proust (1988). *Du Côté de chez Swann* Paris: Gallimard, Folio. (Proust, Marcel. (1983) *Alla ricerca del tempo perduto. Vol I.* Milano: Mondadori).

G. Perec (2013). *La vie mode d'emploi*. Paris: Hachette. (G. Perec. (1997) *La vita istruzioni per l'uso.* Milano: Rizzoli).

*V. Woolf, To the Lighthouse*. Any edition.

In addition to the reading list digitalized material will be made available online.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course lasts one year (three hours of lessons per week). The teaching method alternates between frontal lectures and seminar-type activities. Students are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the course. Non-attending students are required to contact the lecturer in order to define a suitable syllabus for self-study.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

During the oral examination, students will be invited to demonstrate their theoretical knowledge of the discipline and of the authors on the syllabus, as well as the ability to critically analyse the texts and establish meaningful connections among them. Students will be given the opportunity to propose a critical and creative use of the skills acquired in relation to their own course of study and reading experiences by producing short written papers or by means of classroom presentations. These are worth 20% of the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is aimed at students from the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literature and other faculties who wish to consider literature outside of national perspectives. The course does not require specific prior knowledge except for basic notions of history and literary analysis but aims to inspire curiosity in the students and a willingness to approach the content according to their own inclinations and reading interests.

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.