# Philosophical Anthropology

## Prof. Silvano Petrosino

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

The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to anthropological issues regarding the nature of signs and the phenomenon of human communication with special reference to relations between experience and narration.

By the end of the course, students will be able to recognize and describe the fundamental dynamics underlying the human experience of communication with a focus on narration and literary texts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

General part

This first part of the course will study the definition of certain underlying categories of human communication, such as for example: sign/code/system, information/communication, text/context/para-text, syntax/semantics/pragmatics, meaning/sense, etc. Students will then critically study these definitions in relation to subject-language-reality.

Single-subject part

The truth of literature. The second part of the course will address the relationship between experience and narrative, with a particular focus on literary texts and the relationship between truth and fiction. Lectures will address the theme by analysing and interpreting the fairy tales, *Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White* and *Cinderella*.

***READING LIST***

Adopted texts

1. S. Borella - G. Franchin, *Teorie dell’informazione e della comunicazione. Glossario*, Edizioni Educatt, Milan 2010;

2. S. Petrosino, *Il magnifico segno. Comunicazione, esperienza, narrazione*, Edizioni San Paolo, Cinisello Balsamo, 2015.

3. S. Petrosino, *Contro la cultura. La letteratura, per fortuna*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2017.

4. S. Petrosino, *Le fiabe non raccontano favole. Una difesa dell’esperienza*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 2023

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam will be oral. On the one hand, it aims to assess the adequate comprehension of the fundamental notions concerning the phenomenon of communication and the status of the sign in literature; on the other hand, it also aims to assess the candidate’s ability to develop, with specific references to literature texts, a personal and critical analysis on the meaning of narration, and, above all, on the relevant role that literature plays within the human experience at large. This critical skill will play a fundamental role in determining the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As an introduction, teaching does not require prerequisites relating to the content covered. However, it presupposes interest and sensitivity towards the communication relationship and narrative practice.

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.