# Italian Literature

## Prof. Maria Teresa Girardi

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

Focusing on the theme of the journey, understood in its multiple dimensions (the real and physical, existential or metaphysical journey), semester 1 of the course engages students in an historical-critical and linguistic-stylistic study of a coherent selection of cantos from Dante’s *Commedia*, Italian literary history’s travel poem *par excellence* and founding text of Italian and European literature; semester 2 continues with the reading and historical-critical and linguistic-stylistic study of an anthology of poetic texts from the twentieth century on the same theme of travel, preferably interpreted as existential research.

By examining a selection of authors and texts from the highest Italian tradition that have had a great influence on the European tradition, the course aims to raise students’ awareness of: the particular features of Italian literary history and especially those of its greatest representative; the modes and forms in which Italian literature has manifested itself over time and become tradition; the specific nature of poetic and more generally literary language; and the reasons for which this language is capable not only of interpreting human experience, both individual and collective, but also of shaping it. Moreover, by the end of the course, and after participating in a dedicated seminar, students will have become familiar with the methods for analysing poetry, and particularly lyric texts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

“A te convien tenere altro vïaggio” (*If*. I 91). Readings from:

Semester 1: D. Alighieri, *Commedia*

Semester 2: Anthology of 20th century poetry (including the following authors: Pascoli, Rebora, Ungaretti, Montale, Sereni, Caproni)

***READING LIST***

The course texts are available on the course Blackboard page, alongside all the reading-list and other material related to the course.

For the *Commedia*, we recommend the edition edited by A.M. Chiavacci Leonardi, Milan, Oscar Classici Mondadori, 201313.

A course pack of 20th century poems will be provided by the lecturer (on the course BB page).

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be delivered by means of classroom lectures incorporating texts and slides. Lectures are mostly frontal, but will require the active participation of students as much as possible in analysing and interpreting the texts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of an oral exam on the content of the course. The exam will focus on reading, paraphrasing, analysing and commenting on the texts covered on the course, as well as contextualising them on a historical-literary level. Assessment criteria for the oral exam: 40% for paraphrasing and analysing the texts; 40% for commentary and historical-literary contextualisation; 20% for expressive skill and performance. Different assessment criteria may be established individually for any students who are not native Italian speakers.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are advised (particularly non-attending students) to consult the course Blackboard platform regularly, where all notices, as well as the teaching materials related to the course, will be published.

It is desirable to have basic knowledge of the development of Italian literature from the 14th to the 20th century, albeit only in general terms and limited to the main author and canonical works.

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.