# English Language and Literature (final year of the three-year degree, Languages, Communication and Media profile)

## Prof. Arturo Cattaneo; Prof. Cristina Vallaro

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

During semester 1, the course (*Survey Course/General Course*) aims to introduce the most significant authors of the English literature of the 20th century. Thanks to the reading, translation, commentary, and contextualisation of poems and prose works, students will discover the main themes of the literature and culture in English during the period considered, and develop their skills for the analysis of a literary text.

In semester 2 (single-subject course), the course aims to guide students in robust reflection on the colonial question and the British Empire between the 19th and 20th centuries, through the analysis of two novels central to this tradition.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Semester 1 (30 hours): Prof. Cristina Vallaro

An overview of the English literature of the 20th century, supported by the analysis of some of the most significant works (for the reading list, please see the file that will be made available on Blackboard before the beginning of the course). The course will explore: the end of the Victorian age and the passage to the new century: tradition and change; the new philosophies and the avant-garde movements of the 20th century; Modernism; War Poets; The Age of Anxiety (Auden, Dylan Thomas); poetry after World War II (The Group); Yeats, Heaney, and the Irish Question; Walcott, Nourbese Philip, and Postcolonial literature.

Semester 2 (30 hours): Prof. Arturo Cattaneo

The British and international colonial question in the 19th and 20th centuries – The colonisation of Africa: *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad – The colonisation of India: *A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster – The post-war era: from Empire to Commonwealth.

***READING LIST***

Compulsory textbooks

AA.VV, *The Norton Anthology of English Literature,* ed. by Stephen Greenblatt, Norton & Company, New York and London, vol. I, 8th edition (recommended, but any other edition will be accepted).

A. Cattaneo, *A Short History of English Literature,* Mondadori, 2019.

J. Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (any unabridged English-language edition)

E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India* (any unabridged English-language edition)

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course, covering the whole academic year (three hours of classes per week), will be held in English and may be integrated with the showing of the adaptations of some of the works included in the course content. Texts and images that are difficult to find elsewhere will be made available for students on Blackboard. During the year, students will be invited to attend workshops focused on the study of some of the topics and the historical-cultural periods included in the course content.

The classes aim to promote the interaction between the lecturer and the students. The latter will be invited to actively participate in class through the reading, translation, and analysis of the texts included in the course content.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam at the end of the course, to be taken on official exam dates. It will consist in the reading and translation of the texts included in the reading list, as well as their commentary and rhetorical, stylistic, and metric analysis, and their historical and cultural contextualisation. In order to pass the exam, students will have to demonstrate that their language skills correspond to the year in which they are enrolled, and that they can analyse and contextualise the texts included in the course content, and acquire a good knowledge of the fundamental aspects of the English culture and civilization of the historical period under analysis. Please note that students will be allowed to take the English Language and Literature exam only after passing the written and oral English language tests of the same year, as indicated in the degree curriculum of the Faculty.

The final mark will result from the weighted average between the literature exam and the average between the marks obtained in the written and the oral language test.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is addressed to all the students of the curriculum Foreign languages and literatures of the Faculty of Linguistic sciences and foreign literatures. To benefit from lectures and succeed in the exam, students ideally require: adequate knowledge of English literature from the historical and cultural periods examined in the first and second year of the course, adequate knowledge of the English language and a well-established, autonomous and effective method of study.

Attending students will have to follow the rules of conduct established by the Ethical Code of Università Cattolica, accepted at the moment of their registration, so they should read it carefully (the Code is available online).

Students are expected to purchase the textbooks included in the reading list (in particular the Norton Anthology and Othello) before the beginning of the lectures.

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.