# English Language and Literature (Year 3, curriculum: Languages, Communication, Media)

## Prof. Cristina Vallaro

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

The course aims to introduce students to the most significant authors of the English literature of the 20th century. Thanks to the reading, translation, commentary, and contextualisation of poetry and prose belonging to the English literary tradition of the 20th century, students will have the opportunity to develop their textual competence in the field of literature. These texts will be analysed from the point of view of the most important and defining elements, using methodological and cultural coordinates also related to their curriculum. At the end of the course, students will be able to improve their knowledge of English literature and develop their ability to identify and analyse its defining aspects autonomously.

***COURSE CONTENT***

An overview of the English literature of the 20th century, with the analysis of some of its most significant works (for further information on the texts included in the course content, please check the file that will be made available on Blackboard before the beginning of the lectures). In particular, the course will explore the following topics: the end of the Victorian Age and the shift to the new century: tradition and change; the new philosophies and the avant-garde movements of the 20th century; Modernism; the War Poets; The Age of Anxiety (Auden, Dylan Thomas); poetry in the period after World War II (The Group); Yeats, Heaney, and the Irish Question; Walcott, Nourbese Philip, and post-colonial literature.

***READING LIST***

AA.VV, *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Twentieth Century and After,* ed. by Stephen Greenblatt, Norton & Company, New York and London, vol. 2.

A.Cattaneo, *A Short History of English Literature,* Mondadori Università, 2011.

E. Reggiani, *Come leggere la letteratura 2018,* Milan, EDUCatt, 2018.

Online resources:

*Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism* (https://www.rem.routledge.com/)

G. Landow, *The Postcolonial Web,* (http://www.postcolonialweb.org/index.html).

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course (3 hours per week) will last one academic semester. The lectures will be held preferably in English and, even if majority of them will be frontal, they will be aimed to the strongest interaction possible between the lecturer and the students. For this reason, the latter will be invited to actively participate in class through the reading, translation, and analysis of the texts introduced during the course. During classes, the course will provide students with the key contents and the methodological coordinates they need for an adequate interpretation of the texts under analysis, and for an accurate historical, socio-cultural, institutional contextualisation. Further teaching material, useful for the exam at the end of the course, will be specified during classes and made available on Blackboard.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Knowledge of course content will be verified and assessed during the exam on official exam dates, but only for the students who have already passed the English Language III exams (both the written and the oral one) (see current regulation).

The assessment will consist in an oral exam held in English and based on the whole compulsory reading list. Students will have to demonstrate that their language skills correspond to the year in which they are enrolled, that they can translate, analyse, and contextualise the texts in the programme, and that they have a good knowledge of the key aspects of the English culture and civilisation of the historical periods under analysis. The final overall mark will result from the average of the mark obtained in this exam and the weighted average students obtained before taking the exam (and resulting from the written and the oral language exams).

Any additional activity proposed, defined, and carried out during classes may be taken into account during the final assessment.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is addressed to the students enrolled in the ‘Languages, Communication, Media’ curriculum. In order to be able to attend classes and pass the final exam, students should have an adequate knowledge of the English literature of the historical-cultural periods examined during the first two years of course, as well as adequate language skills, and a consolidated, independent, and effective study method. Students will have to comply with the rules of conduct of the *Università Cattolica Code of Ethics*, subscribed during the enrolment phase. They are invited to check it (as it is available online). Also, they will have to attend each class with the texts under analysis, that will be gradually specified during the course.

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.