**English Language and Literature (Year 1, Three-year Course Students, Curricula:** **Languages for Management and Tourism; Languages, Communication and Media)**

## Prof. Cristina Vallaro

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

The course aims to introduce students to English literature through the study of the main literary genres and the great authors of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. In semester 1 (survey course), students will students will contextualise and analyse important texts on a literary, textual and cultural level in order to develop good knowledge of the English language, literature and culture in the centuries covered.

In semester 2 (Single-subject course), students will learn about Elizabethan theatre through the close reading and commentary of *Othello*. The course will also compare the text with comic book, film and television adaptations. By the end of the course, students will possess the requisite tools for independent and effective study and will be able to contextualise, read, translate, commentate and analyse all the texts on the syllabus in terms of metre and rhetoric.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Semester 1 (Survey Course)

The history of English literature from the 16th to the mid-18th century: the evolution of the sonnet from Petrarch to Milton, love poems, the Elizabethan and Miltonian epic, the first discovery expeditions, philosophical thinking, satire, the origins of novels and periodicals.

Semester 2 (Single-subject course)

William Shakespeare and Elizabethan theatre: theatrical buildings, companies of actors and theatre as entertainment and a means of political propaganda. *Othello* by William Shakespeare: dating, sources and printed texts and structure of the work. Textual analysis of *Othello*, its characters and contents. Shakespeare and Italy; Shakespeare and Venice; Venice and Cyprus; Venice and the Moor. *Othello* and means of mass communication.

***READING LIST***

For semester 1

N.B.: *The first two texts form the basic reading list for all three years*.

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature,* ed. by M.H. Abrams and S. Greenblatt, W.W. Norton & Company, New York-London, Vol. 1, 8th edition (recommended, although any edition is acceptable as long as it contains all the extracts on the syllabus).

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

D. Nicholls, *One Day,* Hodder Paperbacks, London, 2010 (or any other hard/electronic copy, provided it is in the original language and is not abridged).

For semester 2

W. Shakespeare, *Othello,* ed. by E.A.J. Honingman, The Arden Shakespeare, 2016 (or any unabridged English edition, including with facing-page Italian translation).

C. Vallaro, *I mille volti di Shakespeare,*Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2016.

A. Cattaneo, *Shakespeare e l’amore,* Einaudi, Turin, 2019.

Recommended texts

G. Melchiori, *Shakespeare,* Laterza, Bari, 1994 (or subsequent editions), [particularly chaps: Shakespeare e il mestiere del teatro, L’universo tragico. Othello, the Moor of Venice.].

L. Innocenti, *Il teatro elisabettiano,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 1994.

B. Crystal, *Shakespeare on Toast: Getting a Taste for the Bard,* Icon Books, London, 2009.

***TEACHING METHOD***

This year-long course will be delivered over three hours of weekly lectures. During the course, students will also be invited to workshops on the topics or historical periods on the syllabus. A detailed list of the authors and passages on the syllabus for semester 1 will be made available on Blackboard at the beginning of lectures. Besides studying the reading list mentioned above, other exam material (texts and images) will be available on Blackboard. During the course, students will also have the opportunity to meet film and television experts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Final assessment, to be held during the official exam sessions. It will be composed of two mandatory tests for all students to be taken in the following order: a written test on semester 1 (Survey course) and an oral exam on semester 2 (Single-subject course) students must have already passed the written test to access the oral exam. The two tests will contribute equally to the final assessment (50% each).

The written assessment consists of 30 closed questions (1 point for each question) on the entire syllabus of semester 1, divided into two areas of equal weight: the texts (translation, commentary, analysis, historical and cultural context, stylistic devices etc.) and the contexts (historical and literary periods, authors, literary genres etc.). During the oral assessment, students will be asked to read, translate, and comment on the texts on the syllabus of the single-subject course. Students must demonstrate: suitable linguistic skills for their year on the course; ability to analyse and contextualise the texts on the syllabus; good knowledge of English culture and civilisation of the historical periods in question.

The final mark will result from the weighted average between the mark of the Literature exam (resulting from the mathematical average of the marks obtained in the two tests) and the average calculated with the marks obtained in the written and oral tests of the English language.

Students will be allowed to take the English Language and Literature (year 1) exam only if they have successfully completed the English Language oral and written tests of the same academic year (as indicated in the Faculty Guide).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is designed for “Languages for Management and Tourism” and “Languages, Communication, Media and Digital Cultures” students. In order to get the most out of lectures and successfully complete the final assessment, students should have adequate English skills and an efficient method of study. That said, the course increases the level of challenge gradually, both in terms of language and content, to support students in achieving the above-mentioned learning outcomes.

Students must respect the university Code of Ethics, accepted upon enrolment, and adhere strictly to its provisions.

In addition, they are expected to acquire the texts before the beginning of lectures, particularly the *Norton Anthology* and, for semester 2, *Othello*.

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.

# English Language and Literature (Faculty of Literature and Philosophy students on the semester-long course)

## Prof. Cristina Vallaro

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

The course aims to introduce students to the work of William Shakespeare and to Elizabethan theatre through reading and commenting on *Othello*. As well as contextualising the text in its historical and literary background, the course also draws on a number of the most important adaptations of Othello (comic-strip, film and television series). By the end of the course, students will have learned the methods and skills required for reading and analysing the works on the syllabus, as well as the tools required for learning about all aspects of Elizabethan theatre.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Semester 2

William Shakespeare and Elizabethan theatre: theatrical buildings, companies of actors, theatre as entertainment and a means of political propaganda. *Othello* by William Shakespeare: dating, sources and printed texts and structure of the work. Textual analysis of *Othello*, its characters and contents. Shakespeare and Italy; Shakespeare and Venice. Venice and Cyprus; Venice and The Moor. *Othello* and means of mass communication.

***READING LIST***

For semester 2

W. Shakespeare, *Othello,* ed. by E.A.J. Honingman, The Arden Shakespeare, 2016 (or any unabridged English edition, including with facing-page Italian translation).

C. Vallaro, *I mille volti di Shakespeare,*Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2016.

A. Cattaneo, *Shakespeare e l’amore,* Einaudi, Turin, 2019.

Recommended texts

G. Melchiori, *Shakespeare,* Laterza, Bari, 1994 (or subsequent editions), [particularly chaps: Shakespeare e il mestiere del teatro, L’universo tragico. Othello, the Moor of Venice.].

L. Innocenti, *Il teatro elisabettiano,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 1994.

B. Crystal, *Shakespeare on Toast: Getting a Taste for the Bard,* Icon Books, London, 2009.

***TEACHING METHOD***

This year-long course will be delivered over three hours of weekly lectures. During the semester, students will also be invited to workshops on some of the topics and historical-cultural periods on the syllabus. Besides studying the reading list mentioned above, other exam material (texts and images) will be available from the lecturer’s webpage and on Blackboard. During the course, students will also have the opportunity to meet film and television experts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

End-of-course oral exam on the official exam dates. In the exam, students must translate, comment and analyse the text on the syllabus in terms of language, rhetoric and style. Students must also demonstrate good knowledge of English language and of all the texts on the reading list, of the fundamental aspects of the historical context and the literary period on the syllabus.

Students may only sit the English Literature exam if they have successfully completed the English Language tests, or the English Communication test as per the regulations.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is designed for Faculty of Literature and Philosophy students who have the semester-long course in English Literature on their study plans. In order to get the most out of lectures and successfully complete the final assessment, students should have adequate English skills and an efficient method of study. That said, the course increases the level of challenge gradually, both in terms of language and content, to support students in achieving the above-mentioned learning outcomes.

Students must respect the Università Cattolica Ethical Code.

Students must acquire a copy of *Othello* before the beginning of lectures.

All students taking only one year of English (annualisti) or two years of English (biennalisti) for 8 CFU should consult the specifically devoted Blackboard webpage named “*Inglese per studenti annualisti e biennalisti*” for the language courses and write for more information to celi.inglese@unicatt.it

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.