# Italian for Literary and Journalistic Communication

## Prof. Federica Millefiorini

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

The general aim of the course is to provide students with the tools to critically approach some literary experiences of the Italian tradition from the second half of the nineteenth century to the present day. Special attention will be paid to particularly important journalistic writings in terms of authors and literary quality, and to the most recent narrative experiences and new expressiveness, focusing on events and authors that are significant for the training of educators. The course also aims to refine the analysis and synthesis skills of students dealing with complex texts and guide them in the consideration of the performative effects of language and its specific function in relation to both the formation of thought and its expression.

More specifically, the course aims are:

1. to provide students with in-depth knowledge of the typical twentieth-century - and not only - phenomenon of the intertwined nature of the writer and journalist profession, by placing it in the changing cultural context of reference;
2. to focus on the expressive and performative potential of the parts of speech through the analysis of their use in journalistic and literary writings, with particular attention to the type of recipient to whom they are addressed;
3. to provoke reflection on the link between word and thought; between the quality of the contents and the quality of their expression; between the expression of the contents and the possibility of their reception by the public;
4. highlight the specific differences between journalistic and literary writings in terms of styles, means and purposes;
5. facilitate the translation of some of the topics addressed during the lessons in educational terms.

At the end of the course, students:

1. will have achieved solid knowledge of the history of journalism and the communication structures of journalism and literature and will be able to distinguish means and purposes that characterise the two different natures;
2. will be able to analyse and comment on the main thematic and stylistic characteristics of a literary or journalistic text, demonstrating a good command of reading and interpretation techniques;
3. will be able to critically confront today's proposals from the world of information;
4. will rigorously master the specific language of the discipline;
5. he will be more aware of the educational responsibility of words and will recognise the educational potential inherent in the various types of text.

***COURSE CONTENT***

First part

The course will present a broad overview of the history of journalism, in which the links, the similarities but also the differences with the current situation will be highlighted; particular attention will be paid to the function of the intellectual in the formation of public opinion, especially between the 19th and 21st centuries; the conscious use of language and style by the journalist and by the person of letters; to the relationships between means and aims in the literary and journalistic domains; to reflection on the power of words in the perception of facts and the related organisation of a world vision by the general public.

Second part

The course will examine the role of literati in the literature of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries through the emblematic experiences of some authors who have gone through historical times of great political and social changes. Specifically, the course will distinguish the author contributions to political commitment, including the defence of the moral tension of writing, and the contributions that offer interesting perspectives on customs and society.

***READING LIST***

First part

G. Farinelli, A.I. Villa, E. Paccagnini, G. Santambrogio, *Storia del giornalismo italiano dalle origini ai giorni nostri,* Turin, Utet Libreria, 2004 (selected pages available on *Blackboard*).

E. Paccagnini, D. Tonolini, *Temi e motivi della narrativa italiana tra XX e XXI secol*o (in pdf format on Blackboard).

E. Paccagnini, *Letteratura e giornalismo* (excerpt from E. Cecchi, N. Sapegno*,* *Storia della letteratura italiana. Il Novecento. Scenari di fine secolo*), Milan, Garzanti, 2001, pp. 499-560 (in pdf format on *Blackboard*).

Second part

* Gabriele D’Annunzio, *Scritti giornalistici*, edited by A. Andreoli, Milan, Mondadori, 1996-2003, volumes 1 and 2, selected pieces. Vol. 1: *Venere capitolina favente; Lo Sfumino perseguitato; Confessioni e battaglie; Contro le cronache; Nella galleria borghese; La vita al mare* [only the second part]; vol. 2: *A Pasquale Villari*; *Preambolo* (*Tribuna* 1893).
* Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, proclamations, manifestos, surveys, futurist magazines, made available on *Blackboard*;
* Eugenio Montale, *Il secondo mestiere. Arte, musica e società*, edited by G. Zampa, Milan, Mondadori, 1996,selected pieces (*A proposito della moralità dell’arte; Augurio; I libri nello scaffale; La macchina della gloria; Il secondo mestiere; Tornare nella strada; Ammazzare il tempo; Le magnifiche sorti*);
* Tommaso Landolfi, *Del meno*,Milano, Adelphi, 2019, chosen elzevirs;
* Dino Buzzati, *Cronache terrestri*, Milano, Mondadori, 1972 (or other complete edition);
* Italo Calvino, *Le armi e gli amori*, in Id., *Saggi*, edited by M. Barenghi, Milan, Mondadori, 1995, vol. II, pp. 2195-2246;
* Id., *Perché leggere i classici*, in *Saggi*, vol. II, pp. 1816-24;
* Id., *Palomar*, Milano, Mondadori, 2002, selected pieces;

For comments, students will refer to the following critical reading list:

* Teresa Bava, *Profondo in superficie. La lingua del signor Palomar dai testi sui quotidiani al libro*, «Autografo», 2012, pp. 63-78;
* *Parola di scrittore. Letteratura e giornalismo nel Novecento*, introduction and edited by Carlo Serafini, Rome, Bulzoni, 2012, pp. 95-107; 109-134; 171-190; 261-270; 297-316; 457-482.

Any additional material useful for the in-depth study of the issues addressed will be made available through the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures with possible intervention of experts. The course will include participatory teaching, in which students will be encouraged to comment on the texts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is oral and will consist of:

* a first part aimed at testing

1. knowledge of the general lines of the history of journalism and the use of specific language;
2. the ability to analyse and synthesise the issues that have affected the history of journalism;
3. the ability to focus on the problem of the relationship between word, truth, and story; between writer and public; between writing and power.

* a second part, specifically dedicated to the relationship between literature and journalism, during which the following will be tested:

1. the students’ ability to recognise the differences between journalistic style and literary style in the texts of the authors proposed and analysed during lectures, and to recreate the relationships between the journalist and the writer profession of a specific author;
2. the ability to identify and illustrate the purposes and effectiveness of the rhetorical device and performative tools in the pieces studied;
3. clarity of presentation and argumentative rigour.

The first and the second part of the course will have equal weight in the assignment of the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no content-related prerequisites for the course.

Note: Students are expected to bring their own textbooks in the programme during the exam.

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.