-.Literature of Modernity

Prof. Pierantonio Frare

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

**General teaching aims**: to recognise the centrality of the word in modern society; to reflect on the educational and formative potential inherent in literary texts and exploitable in the workplace; to help identify in the literary text the model of true dialogue with the other from oneself, based on hermeneutic respect and not oppression.

**Specific disciplinary aims**: to provide students with the technical skills (linguistic, metric, rhetorical, ethical) necessary for understanding and interpreting Italian literary texts; teach students how to recognise the complexity of levels and meanings brought into play by the literary text; provide the knowledge and tools necessary to reflect on the relationship between literature and the human sciences.

**Intended learning outcomes**: at the end of the course, students will be able to place the texts and authors studied within the historical context of Italian literature; read and understand literary texts, in poetry and prose, of some complexity; identify their formative and educational value; apply their acquired knowledge to the construction of training courses suitable for their future professional contexts; and draw connections, abstractions and generalisations from the data.

COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided into two parts, of thirty hours each, corresponding to the first and second semester:

1**. Literary Word and Education**: we will examine the topic of education through words, exemplified in texts by Dante (the first two cantos of the *Commedia*, read from the perspective of the teacher), by Manzoni (chapters 9 and 10 of the *Promessi Sposi*, read from the perspective of the educator), and by Primo Levi (the chapter *Il canto di Ulisse* in *Se questo è un uomo*, read from the perspective of the relationship between guide and guided).

2. PART 2. **"Per un bacin d’amore / successer tanti guai". Dante's love to songs from the 2000s**: we will examine the passions, adventures, fortunes and misfortunes of love as defined by some of our tradition's great writers through to the songs of recent years. In this last part of the course, students will be invited to propose a number of (love) songs to be listened to and examined together.

READING LIST Part 1 (Literary Word and Education)

Texts:

Dante Alighieri, *Commedia*: *Inf.* I, II, V (recommended edition: *Divina Commedia* edited by AM Chiavacci Leonardi, Mondadori, Milan, 1991. Available in the University Library or purchased), with knowledge of the structure of the work.

Alessandro Manzoni, *I promessi sposi*, chaps. IX and X (any annotated edition).

Primo Levi, *Se questo è un uomo*, edited by S. Brenna - E. Morosini, Einaudi Scuola, Turin, 2010 (complete reading).

Essays:

P. Frare, *Il potere della parola. Dante, Levi, Manzoni*, Interlinea, Novara, 2010.

Giuseppe Ledda, *Leggere la Commedia*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2016, chaps. I, II, III, IV.

***READING LIST Part 2******("Per un bacin d’amore / successer tanti guai". Dante's love to songs from the 2000s****)*

Texts:

Dante, *Commedia*, *Inferno V* (Paolo and Francesca); *Purgatorio* XXII.

 Boccaccio 's novels can be read in the original (G. Boccaccio, *Decameron*, edited by V. Branca, Einaudi, Turin, 1980) or in the rewriting by Aldo Busi (*Aldo Busi riscrive il Decamerone di Giovanni Boccaccio*, Rizzoli [Bur], Milan, 2020: giornata III, novella 1; giornata IV, novelle 1, 5; giornata VII, novella 9.

U. Foscolo, *Ultime lettere di Jacopo Ortis*, edited by Pierantonio Frare, Feltrinelli, Milan, 2001 (in the University Library or purchased): full reading and in-depth knowledge of the following passages: *Da’ colli Euganei*, *11 Ottobre 1797*, *26 Ottobre*, *20 Novembre*, *14 Maggio*, *14 maggio ore 11*, *14 maggio a sera*, *21 Maggio*, *28 Maggio*, *ore 9*, *Ferrara 20 Luglio a sera, ore 11 della sera* (and all the fragments that follow, until *14 Marzo*), *14 Marzo*, from *Mercoledì ore 5* until the end.

Giacomo Leopardi, *Canti*: *A. Silvia*; *Amore e morte*; *A se stesso* (any commented edition).

Beppe Fenoglio, *Una questione privata*, Einaudi, Turin (complete reading).

Songs from the 2000s: a dozen songs, chosen by the course participants, which will be uploaded to Blackboard.

Essays:

The parts dedicated to the *Decameron*, the *Ultime lettere di Jacopo Ortis*, the *Canti* by Leopardi, and Fenoglio: in any good high school manual (we recommend Langella, Frare, Gresti, Motta, *Amor mi mosse*, Pearson, Milan, 2019).

G. Antonelli, *Ma che cosa vuoi che sia una canzone. Mezzo secolo di italiano cantato*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2010 (University Library or purchased).

R. Ceserani, *Amore*, in *Dizionario dei tema letterari*, edited by R. Ceserani - M. Domenichelli - P. Fasano, Utet, Turin, 2007, I, pp. 64-73 (available on Blackboard).

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal lectures and participatory teaching, with the possibility of interventions by external specialists. Projection of film clips and listening to songs are planned.

Some materials will be made available on Blackboard.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

An oral exam. During the exam, students will be assessed on their knowledge of the reading list and, above all, their knowledge of the course texts; the assessment will comprise questions on the plot and topics, the metric and rhetorical structures, the literal version, the paraphrase, the comment, and the interpretation. Students will also be assessed on their essential but precise knowledge of the life and works of the authors covered in the course. The quality of the student's presentation will also be assessed.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

**Prerequisites**: Ability to read quickly and to understand texts of normal difficulty.

**Notes**: Students can take the exam every six months, notifying the lecturer by e-mail at least three days before the exam date. During the exam, students must have with them the texts required by the programme.

Should the current Covid-19 health emergency not allow face-to-face teaching, remote teaching will be guaranteed using methods that will be communicated in good time to students.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at http://docenti.unicatt.it/.