**-. Literature of Modernity**

prof. Pierantonio Frare - prof. Maicol Cutrì

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

*General course aims:*

recognise the key role of the word in modern society; reflect on the educational and training potential inherent in literary texts and exploitable in the workplace; help to identify in the literary text the model of true dialogue with the other, based on hermeneutic respect and not on oppression.

*Specific course aims:*

provide students with the technical skills (linguistic, metric, rhetorical, ethical) necessary for understanding and interpreting Italian literary texts; educate them in the recognition of the complexity of levels and meanings conveyed by the literary text; provide the knowledge and tools necessary to reflect on the relationship between literature and human sciences.

*Intended learning outcomes:*

at the end of the course, students will be able to contetualise the texts and authors studied in the historical framework of Italian literature; to read and understand complex literary texts, both poetry and prose; to identify their training and educational value; to apply the knowledge acquired to the construction of training courses suitable for the professional contexts in which they will operate; to make connections, abstractions and generalisations starting from the data.

***COURSE CONTENT***

**MODULE 1**: Prof. Pierantonio Frare

The course is divided into two modules, thirty hours each, thematically connected to each other and corresponding to the first and second semester:

**PART 1 (prof. Pierantonio Frare):** **“Per un bacin d’amore / successer tanti guai». Love from Dante to the songs of the year 2000**

Students will examine the passions, adventures, fortunes, and misfortunes of love with their different features according to some great writers of our tradition up to the song of recent years. In this last part of the course, students will be invited to propose some (love) songs to listen to and examine together.

***READING LIST***

**(“Per un bacin d’amore / successer tanti guai». Love from Dante to the songs of the year 2000**)

**Textbooks:**

Dante Alighieri, *Commedia*, *Inferno V* (Paolo and Francesca); *Purgatorio* XVIII 40-75, XXII 1-24; *Paradiso* IX

Boccaccio, *Decameron* (in the edition edited by V. Branca, Turin, Einaudi, 1980 or in Busi's rewriting: *Aldo Busi riscrive il Decamerone di Giovanni Boccaccio*, Milan, Rizzoli [Bur], 2020): *Proemio*; Day III, story 2, 10; Day IV, stories 1, 5; Day V, story 9; Day X story 5.

U. Foscolo, *Ultime lettere di Jacopo Ortis*: complete 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, up to *14 marzo*); *14 marzo*; da *Mercoledì ore 5* until the end.

Giacomo Leopardi, *Canti*: *A Silvia*; *Amore e morte*; *A se stesso*.

Songs of the year two thousand: songs chosen and commented by the course participants, which will be uploaded to Blackboard.

**Essays:**

Pierantonio Frare, Simona Brenna, *Dalle origini a Leopardi. La letteratura italiana e le sue grandi opere*, Milan, Pearson editore, 2023, pp. 35-106 (Dante), 157-198 (Boccaccio), 582-607 (Foscolo); 671-715 (Leopardi).

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

**MODULE 2**: Prof. Maicol Cutrì

**Part II (prof. Maicol Cutrì): «i nostri commerci con l’Altro / furono un lungo inghippo». Italian literature between desire and dialogue**

Students will examine two different ways of representing dialogue and interpersonal relationships in literature, paying particular attention to the theme of love. They will first look at the peculiar case of the ‘polyphonic’ dialogue in the novel *The Betrothe*d, following the path of closeness and distance in the characters of Lucia and Renzo, and trying to understand why we can talk about a couple's coming-of-age novel. Students will also read some poems by Dante and Montale, which constitute the origin and most advanced point of the so-called ‘lyrical tradition’, Italian and European, to identify the analogies and differences of a particular form of long-distance dialogue with the beloved woman in the poet’s interiority.

***READING LIST***

**Textbooks:**

- Alessandro Manzoni, *I promessi sposi* (any annotated edition; the one edited by E. Raimondi and L. Bottoni, Carocci is particularly recommended, Rome, 2021): knowledge of the structure of the work and complete reading of the chapters VII, XX, XXI, XXXVI, XXXVIII.

- Dante Alighieri, *Rime giovanili e della Vita Nuova*, edited by T. Barolini, notes by M. Gragnolati, Rizzoli, Milan (BUR), 2009: poesie *Sonar bracchetti e cacciatori aizzare*; *Tanto gentile e tanto onesta pare*, *Di donne io vidi una gentil schiera*, *Videro gli occhi miei quanta pietate*, *Deh pellegrini che pensosi andate*.

- Eugenio Montale, *Le occasioni*, edited by T. de Rogatis, with an essay by L. Blasucci and V. Sereni, Milan, Mondadori (Lo Specchio), 2018: poesie *Lo sai: debbo riperderti e non posso…*, *La speranza di pure rivederti…*, *Ecco il segno; s’innerva…*, *Ti libero la fronte dai ghiaccioli…*, *Al primo chiaro, quando…*, *Il fiore che ripete…*, *La casa dei doganieri*, *Questa rissa cristiana che non ha*.

Songs of the year two thousand: presentation of the songs chosen and commented by the course participants, which will be uploaded to Blackboard.

**Essays:**

- Pierantonio Frare, *Leggere «I promessi sposi»*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2006, chapters III and VI.

- Niccolò Scaffai, *Donna angelicata*, in *Dizionario dei temi letterari*, edited by M. Domenichelli, with R. Ceserani and P. Fasano, vol. I, UTET, Turin, 2007, pp. 653-655 (the textbook will be uploaded to the Materials section of Blackboard).

- Tiziana de Rogatis, *Introduzione* a Eugenio Montale, *Le occasioni* (see above), pp. lxxxvii-cv.

Pierantonio Frare, Simona Brenna, *Dalle origini a Leopardi. La letteratura italiana e le sue grandi opere*, Pearson editore, Milan, 2023, pp. 35-106 (Dante), 608-670 (Manzoni)

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lessons in the classroom and participatory teaching, with possible interventions by external specialists. The course includes song listening activities.

Some materials will be made available on Blackboard.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is oral. The exam assessment will consider the students’ knowledge of the reading list textbooks and, above all, their knowledge of the texts in the programme, verified through questions concerning the plot and themes, the metric and rhetorical structures, the literal version, the paraphrase, the commentary, and the interpretation. The acquisition of essential but precise information on the life and works of the authors in the programme will also be assessed. The quality of the presentation will be part of the assessment.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

**Prerequisites**: ability to read quickly and understand moderately difficult texts.

**Note:** Students can divide the exam into semesters by notifying the teacher by email at least three days before the exam date.The methods and the scheduling of the interim exam will be published on the Blackboard platform. During the exam, students are expected to carry with them the texts required by the programme.

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