



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Letteratura Italiana Contemporanea

1920-3-E2001R001

Course title

When literature deals with history

Topics and course structure

A critical approach to literary communication. In particular, the program deals with the main features of literariness and of narrative; the monographic section will focus on one or more patterns of narratives. This year the lecture course will focus on selected examples of narratives aiming to brief the reader on particular historical events. Historiographic works, as well as autobiographies or journals, are therefore excluded, in favor of chronicles or analysis of single moments or facts.

Objectives

The main goal is to assure that the students become familiar with the close reading of texts, that includes the ability to understand semantic values, ambiguities, implicit assumptions, and therefore to appreciate both communicative principles and cultural significance.

Methodologies

Lectures and discussion. Text analysis: linguistic and rhetorical features, narrative modes, cultural patterns.
Summarizing Exercises

Online and offline teaching materials

Prerequisites:

A good high-school level in humanities; Italian and European history of the 20th century: fascism, World War II, Holocaust, cold war and the so-called First Republic.

Programme and references for attending students

Institutional module:

- Mario Vargas Llosa, *In Praise of Reading and Fiction*
- H. Porter Abbott, *The Cambridge Introduction to Narrative*
-

Monographic module:

- Emilio Lussu, *The March on Rome and Thereabouts*
- Giacomo Debenedetti, *16 ottobre 1943*
- Leonardo Sciascia, ...
- Javier Cercas, *Anatomia de un instante*

Critical tools:

Dal *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani*, Treccani:

- Giuseppe Sircana, *Emilio Lussu* (vol. 66, 2006)

Vargas Losa's text, as well of the video of the Nobel lecture, is available on www.nobelprize.org. For Il Dizionario Biografico degli italiani is also available online; www.treccani.it/biografico.

The programme includes also some additional texts which will be uploaded on the didactic platform, such as pages from Elsa Morante's novel *La Storia*, Natalia Ginzburg's and Alberto Moravia's prefaces to *16 ottobre 1943*, Giulio Angioni 's essay *Emilio Lussu e i sardi*, from *Il dito alzato* (Sellerio).

Programme and references for non-attending students

Assessment methods

Oral test. Evaluation is based on the following factors: pertinence and complexity, text comprehension, familiarity with the literary texts in programme, capacity for argumentation and interpretation, interaction, clarity of exposition, linguistic appropriateness, competence in technical terminology.

Office hours

Wednesday, 2:30-4:30 PM.

Programme validity

Two academic years (until February 2022)

Course tutors and assistants

dr. Federico Pianzola, post-doc
