



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Contemporary Italian Literature - A-L

2021-1-E1901R014-AL

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#### Course title

*Working with madmen, and narrate them: Mario Tobino and Giuliano Scabia*

#### Topics and course structure

The object of the course is an approach to texts that highlights the educational dimension of literature. This takes place through three main ways.

1) On the thematic level, the significance given to the literary representation of educational processes, for example the traditions of the Bildungsroman, stories of formation, images of childhood, adolescence, school, the family, disability and educational contexts in general.

2) On the aesthetic level, the development of the idea of literature as simulation and artistic projection of experiences, and therefore as an exceptionally rich and varied repertoire of human models, or of psychological constellations, paradigms of behaviour, social and cultural contexts.

3) On the linguistic level, attention to the ways in which the subjects (narrators, characters, poetic voices) speak of themselves and of others, of interior and exterior events, of private and public issues, of facts and ideas; the recognition of the different communicative contexts represented, of the adequacy and effectiveness of the expressive choices made, of the existential and social meaning of the various verbal interactions.

The course approaches subjects of a theoretical-methodological and historic-cultural nature, necessary for monographic in-depth study, chosen each year and dedicated to reading and the interpretation of works by one or more authors, including foreign.

## Objectives

With this course, with a constant and participated attendance of the lectures, the intention is to promote the following, in terms of :

### *Knowledge and comprehension*

The objective of the course is in the first place to promote and consolidate the ability to read texts. Through the exercise of interpretation, the student will learn to understand the formal and thematic aspects of the works, the characters of the experiences represented, their organization; and also to question themselves on the relative motivations and implications, including in relation to their personal experience. In addition, the student will have an opportunity to study in depth questions of great significance, the object of the literary works approached each time: historical events, psychological problems, moral problems, relation and communicative situations.

### *Ability to apply learning and comprehension*

Through the exercise of interpreting the texts, students will learn to measure the depth and the complexity of the universe of the discourse and therefore to appreciate the potential of a conscious use of the word. This way they can corroborate both their communication skills and their autonomy of judgement. A conscious and trained reading skill allows transforming the aesthetic experience into a way of extending one's own existential experience, improving and refining the comprehension of speech, of choices, of the point of view of those similar to oneself. In the final analysis, literature is an instrument which aims at increasing of responses (emotional, intellectual pragmatic) to new situations and, consequently, to intensify the skills of social interaction.

## Methodologies

Prerequisites:

A good high-school level in humanities.

Italian and European history of the 20th century.

Good expressive ability.

Methodologies:

Lectures, video projections, readings exercises, discussion, textual commentary: linguistic, stylistic and rethorical features, narrative modes, cultural patterns.

**During the Covid emergency, all didactic activities will take place online, delivered remotely in video conference format. The classes will be recorded and uploaded onto the didactic platform. It is recommended to check the web page of the course regularly, in order to be updated about possible synchronous video conferences.**

## Online and offline teaching materials

Texts, video.

## Programme and references for attending students

### Institutional part:

Mario Barenghi, *Cosa possiamo fare con il fuoco? Letteratura e altri ambienti*, Macerata, Quodlibet, 2013; only the chapters: *Cosa possiamo fare con il fuoco? Un'ipotesi sulle origini della letteratura*, pp. 11-24; *Perché si legge? Pretesto calviniano sulla funzione educativa della letteratura*, pp. 35-44; *Silenzi in aula. Breve riflessione sul mestiere dell'insegnante*, pp. 53-58.

Mario Barenghi, *Perché insegnare letteratura (e non solo agli studenti di lettere)*, «Doppiozero», 13 marzo 2018, <http://www.doppiozero.com/materiali/perche-insegnare-letteratura-e-non-solo-agli-studenti-di-lettere>

### Monographic part:

Giuliano Scabia, *Marco cavallo*, Edizioni alphabeta, 2018

Mario Tobino, *Le libere donne di Magliano*, a cura di Paola Italia, Rizzoli (BUR), Milano 2018. Il libro è da leggere in tutte le sue parti, compresi il profilo bio-bibliografico e l'*Appendice*.

### Critical bibliography:

Marina Guglielmi, *Raccontare il manicomio. La macchina narrativa di Basaglia fra parole e immagini*, Franco Cesati, Firenze 2018

Laura Vallortigara, *Per un profilo bio-bibliografico di Giulino Scabia*, in *Camminando per le foreste sorelle di Nane Oca*, a cura di L. Vallortigara, Edizioni Ca' Foscari 2016, pp. 137-141. Il testo sarà reso disponibile sulla piattaforma e-learning

Eugenio Borgna, *A tu per tu con la follia*, in M. Tobino, *Opere scelte*, Meridiani Mondadori, Milano 2007, pp. XII-XXIV. Il saggio sarà reso disponibile sulla piattaforma e-learning

Marianna Gualazzi, *Follia e animalità ne "Le libere donne di Magliano"*, «Poetiche», a. V, n. 1, 2004, pp. 71-96. Il saggio sarà reso disponibile sulla piattaforma e-learning

**NB:** An integral part of the examination bibliography will be a series of brief texts available to students of the e-learning didactic platform ([elearning.unimib.it](http://elearning.unimib.it)), in particular poetic texts, critical readings, images, drawings, declarations and interviews. To access the services, the students must be enrolled on the course.

## **Programme and references for non-attending students**

### **Bibliography for non-attending students**

**During the Covid-19 emergency no distinction between attending and not attending student**

A bibliography for non-attending students will be provided if the situation returns to normal

**NB: The Contemporary Italian literature course (A-L) will have its online extension of the e-learning didactic platform (elearning.unimib. it). To access the service, students must be enrolled on the course.**

### **Assessment methods**

Type of examination: oral

Criteria of assessment: The oral consists of checking knowledge of the subjects dealt with during the lectures and all the items (books, articles, document) present in the bibliography. Students must show that they can answer questions in a pertinent, clear, correct and reasoned way, with an appropriate use of critical terminology. One part of the oral consists of commenting an extract of the works in the programme. As comprehension of reading the text represents a fundamental condition for literary interpretation, the use of a good dictionary (naturally including online) is recommended during preparation for the examination.

NB:The oral examinations will follow the order of enrolment. On average in one day, there will be about 16 orals. The Lecturer does not interfere in the order of enrolment. In the event of requirements of time or calendar for problems of work please notify this in good time by email to: [angela.borghesi@unimib.it](mailto:angela.borghesi@unimib.it)

**During the Covid emergency, all oral tests will take place online, by means of the Webex platform. The web page of the course will indicate a public link for the access of possible virtual attendees.**

### **Office hours**

Second term: wednesday, 11-12,30, U6 4098

**Student reception by appointment: contact the professor by email. Unless otherwise indicated by the University, reception will take place online.**

## **Programme validity**

Two academic years.

## **Course tutors and assistants**

Dr. ssa Benedetta Centovalli

Dr. ssa Laura Vallortigara

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