UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Contemporary Italian Literature - M-Z

2021-1-E1901R014-MZ

Course title

Childhoods in the South. Novels and short stories of Niccolò Ammaniti, Diego De Silva, Antonio Pascale and Francesco Piccolo

Topics and course structure

The object of the course is an approach to texts that highlights the educational dimension of literature. This takes pace 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 intensity the skills of social interaction.

Methodologies

Lectures, video projections, reading exercises, discussion, textual commentary: linguistic, stylistic and rhetorical 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

The Contemporary Italian literature course (M-Z) will have its online extension of the Moodle didactic platform (elearning. unimib. it). To access the service, students must be enrolled on the course

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:

Texts

Niccolò Ammaniti, *Io non ho paura* (2001)

Diego De Silva, *Certi bambini* (2001)

Antonio Pascale, *La manutenzione degli affetti* (2003): only the short stories *La controra*, *Qui le chiacchiere stanno a zero*, *Mi vidi di schiena*.

Francesco Piccolo, *Storie di primogeniti e figli unici* (1996): only the short stories *Dal lato della strada*, *La maglia numero undici*, *Le estati del rancore*, *Santino*, *Per terre assai lontane*.

The texts are available also as e-book.

Critical bibliography:

Giuliana Adamo, *Riflessioni sulle opere di due scrittori italiani contemporanei: Niccolò Ammaniti e Diego De Silva,* "the italianist", n. 27, 2007, pp. 166-184 (available on-line)

Mario Barenghi, *L'arcadia dell'horror,* in *Oltre il Novecento. Appunti su un decennio di narrativa (1988-1998)*, Milano, Marcos y Marcos, 1999, pp. 274-287 (available on moodle platform).

Cesare Segre, *Niccolò Ammaniti. I mostri degl'incubi non sono i peggiori*, in *Tempo di bilanci. La fine del Novecento*, Torino, Einaudi, 2005, pp. 199-201 (available on moodle platform).

Hanna Serkowska, *Come raccontare lo spirito franto dei tempi? Il caso Antonio Pascale*, in “Etica & Politica / Ethics & Politics”, XVII, 2015, 1, pp. 89-99 (available on-line).

NB: An integral part of the examination bibliography will be a series of brief texts available to students of the Moodle didactic platform (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

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

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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.

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: francesca.caputo@unimib.it

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

Office hours

Second term: wednesday, 10.30-12.30, 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

Dott. Alessandra Farina

Dott. Alessandro Terreni