SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Letterature Comparate

2021-2-F0101R017

Course title

Literature and/or ethnography. Carlo Levi (and others) in the South of Italy

Topics and course structure

An approach to literary studies conceived as critical representation of culture and of cultures, without predetermined linguistic or chronological boundaries. The analysis of texts, themes and poetics aims to put in evidence the relationship between things and words, discourse and reality, historical contexts and symbolic forms.

After a general introduction to Comparative Literature inspired by the appealing synopsis of Piero Boitani, this year the lecture course will focus on the discovery of the most concealed and archaic aspects of Southern Italy revealed by Carlo Levi's most famous book, *Christ Stopped at Eboli* (1945). Besides stirring up a lively critical discussion, Levi's memoir exerted a deep and lasting impact on several exponents of Italian culture. The course will examine chiefly two such exponents: the «peasant poet» Rocco Scotellaro, major of Tricarico, a close friend of Levi's, and the anthropologist Ernesto de Martino, who led important ethnographical research in the interior of Lucania. In addition, the course will deal with the singer and song-writer Vinicio Capossela, who composed an album, shot a movie and wrote a book about the land of origin of his family at the border between Campania and Lucania.

Objectives

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Methodologies

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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

Programme and references for attending students

Texts:

- _____
- Carlo Levi, *Christ Stopped at Eboli*
- Carlo Levi, *Words are Stones. Impressions of Sicily*
- _____

Critical readings:

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Additional critical readings, as well as Rocco Scotellaro's works available in English translation, will be chosen with the students.

Programme and references for non-attending students

During the Covid-19 emergency, no distinction is made between attending and 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 personal interpretation, interaction, ability to establish connections, clarity of exposition, linguistic appropriateness.

During the Covid emergency, 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

Programme validity

Until February 2023

Course tutors and assistants

dr Federico Pianzola, postdoc