UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Contemporary Italian Literature - M-Z

2223-1-E1901R014-MZ

Course title

Resistence without rethoric: Italo Calvino, *Il sentiero dei nidi di ragno*, Luigi Menehgello, *I piccoli maestri*

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.

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
Italo Calvino, *Il sentiero dei nidi di ragno* (Oscar Mondadori)
Luigi Meneghello, *I piccoli maestri* * (Bur 2022)*

Critical bibliography:

- Mario Barenghi, *Parole per Pin. Emergenze lessicali nel primo libro di Calvino*, “Strumenti critici”, XXXVI (1, gennaio-aprile), 95-106

- Francesca Serra, *Calvino*, Roma, Salerno, 2006 (*Il sentiero dei nidi di ragno*, pp. 44-61)

- Francesca Caputo,* *“C’è dentro tutto quello che sento sulla Resistenza”. La ‘materia’ e la ‘forma’ dei “Piccoli maestri”,* in L. Meneghello, *I piccoli maestri*, Milano, BUR 2022, pp. 5-23

- Maria Corti, *Introduzione,* in L. Meneghello, *I piccoli maestri*, Milano, BUR 2022, pp. 25-39

- Giulio Lepschy, *Luigi Meneghello*, in *Dizionario biografico degli italiani* (https://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/luigi-meneghello_(Dizionario-Biografico)/)

- *A text of your choice* in *Maestria e apprendistato. Per i cinquant’anni dei Piccoli maestri di Luigi Meneghello*, edited by Francesca Caputo,:
  Bruno Falcetto,* *Imparare lo humour. Introduzione**, pp. 7-19
  Claudio Milanini, *“Una ferita nella mia mente”: il capitolo 7*, pp. 27-42
  Ernestina Pellegrini, *Altre tavole di lettura per “I piccoli maestri”,* pp. 43-56
  Francesca Caputo, *Modi e tempi dell’imparare nei “Piccoli maestri”*, pp. 113-126
  Franco Marenco, *“Semo inglesi”: i “Piccoli maestri”, ed. Feltrinelli 1964, p. 76*, pp. 127

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

The same for attending students

NB: The Contemporary Italian literature course (M-Z) 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 on the subjects dealt with during the lectures

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

First term: wednesday, from 14.30

Programme validity

Two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Dott. Alessandra Farina

Dott. Alessandro Terreni

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION