UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Contemporary Italian Literature

2324-3-E2001R001

Course title

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.
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

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

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.

Online and offline teaching materials

Texts, video.

Programme and references

****Institutional part:**

Mario Vargas Llosa, *Elogio della lettura e della finzione*, Einaudi, Torino 2010
Andrea Bernardelli, *Che cos'è la narrazione*, Carocci, Roma 2019

Italo Calvino, *Esattezza*, in Id. *Lezioni americane*, Garzanti, Milano 1988

**Monographic part:

Cesare Pavese, *La casa in collina*, Oscar Mondadori, Milano 2021.

Beppe Fenoglio, *Una questione privata*, Einaudi Torino, 2022.

Critical bibliography:

Gabrile Pedullà, *Nota al testo, Alla ricerca del romanzo, Cronologia*, in B. Fenoglio, *Una questione privata*, Torino Einaudi 2022, pp. XII-XIX, 129-179.

Nunzia Palmieri,* *Vittime e carnefici II: Una questione privata*, in Beppe Fenoglio, *La scrittura e il corpo*, Le Lettere, Firenze 2022, pp. 103-126.

Angela Borghesi, *Il tema di Milton. Postille arboree su Beppe Fenoglio*, in «P.R.I.S-M.I.», n. 14, 2015, pp. 305-322.

Roberto Gigliucci, *Vita di Cesare Pavese*, in Id., *Cesare Pavese*, Bruno Mondadori, Milano 2001, pp. 1-27. Il testo sarà reso disponibile sulla pagina e-learning del corso

Antonio Sichera, *Introduzione *a C. Pavese, La casa in collina, Oscar Mondadori, Milano 2021, pp. V-XXXIV.

Antonio Sichera, *Pavese al bivio. Falsa e vera "religio" nella "Casa in collina", tra misteri eleusini e testi scritturali*, in «Le forme e la storia”», X, n. 1, 2017, pp. 143-159.

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

Office hours

Programme validity

Two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Dr. ssa Alessandra Farina

Dr. ssa Laura Vallortigara

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS