

Italian Literature II

Martina Mengoni

Content

The course aims to provide an introduction and a broad overview of the Italian literature and culture from XVIII to XX century. After a focus on Romantic writers (Foscolo, Leopardi, Manzoni), we will analyze different expressions of literature in United Italy (Carducci, Pascoli, D'Annunzio, Verga, Collodi, Deledda, Pirandello).

A key section of the course will then explore different ideas of literature and the role of intellectual of poets such as Saba, Ungaretti and Montale, thinkers such as Croce and Gramsci and novelists such as Svevo, Tozzi and Gadda during the rise and fall of Fascism.

Last classes will be finally dedicated to the aftermath of Second World War, analyzing works of Pavese, Pasolini, Levi, Calvino, Sciascia.

Such periodisation (partially shaped on Brand-Pertile critical approach) reflects major historiography questions that will be discussed: special features of Romantic movement in Italy; the paradox of a national literature developed in a fragmentary and regional environment (before and after unification); relationship, issues and attitude of Italian intellectuals, writers, thinkers towards Fascism; the complexity of cultural and literary movements of post-war Italy (until 1970s).

An essential selection of texts will be analyzed (in both Italian and English translation) using key concepts of literary analysis.

Methodology

Historical-cultural background lessons will alternate with special focuses on main authors and text analysis.

Lessons program

Theatre : Carlo Goldoni (1 lesson)

The Romantic Controversy

Introduction to Enlightenment and Romanticism (1 lesson)

Giacomo Leopardi (3 lessons)

Alessandro Manzoni (3 lessons)

The Literature of United Italy

Poetry: Pascoli (1 lesson)

Prose: Verga/ Deledda (1 lesson)

Focus on: Luigi Pirandello (1 lesson)

The Rise and Fall of Fascism

Poetry and the Avantgarde: Saba, Ungaretti, Montale (3 lessons)

Novel: Italo Svevo (1 lesson)

Aftermath of the Second World War

Introduction to Neorealism; introduction to industrial novels; two different voices: Primo Levi and Italo Calvino (2 lesson)

Literary tour

Milan, May 25th

Texts

Peter Brand, Lino Pertile, *The Cambridge History of the Italian Literature*, Cambridge, CUP, 1999 [Revised edition].

Alessandro Manzoni, *The Betrothed*, translated by B. Penman, London, Penguin, 2016.

Students will be provided with a selection of literary texts (in English, with the parallel Italian text), and with other further materials such as critical readings and maps. All these materials will be available on MOODLE (e-learning Unipi).

Hours:

Monday 2.15 - 3.45pm

Thursday 12am - 1.30 pm

Mid term exam: written test, April 4th (Thursday), 12am

Final exam: oral exam, June (to be scheduled)

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