

ECOLOGICAL MINDS.

Paola Spinozzi

English Literature I

MA Course in FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Academic Year 2017-2018

Obiettivi formativi

Gli studenti approfondiranno le loro conoscenze della letteratura e della cultura britannica in una prospettiva teorica, metodologica, diacronica e sincronica.

La trattazione di argomenti teorici e metodologici mira a mettere in luce la dimensione metaletteraria. Lo studio di specifici autori e testi è finalizzato a: inquadrare il contesto storico-culturale della Gran Bretagna e dell'Europa; utilizzare gli strumenti critici per indagare i testi letterari.

Particolare attenzione sarà dedicata all'acquisizione da parte degli studenti di abilità richieste in settori professionali quali l'insegnamento della letteratura e l'editoria letteraria, che richiedono la comprensione delle forme e dei generi letterari nella loro evoluzione attraverso la storia e in relazione ad altre espressioni culturali.

Students will widen their knowledge of British literature and culture from a theoretical, methodological, diachronic and synchronic perspective.

Discussion of theoretical and methodological topics will highlight the metaliterary dimension. The study of specific authors and texts is aimed at: presenting the historical and cultural contexts in Great Britain and Europe; applying critical tools for examining literary texts.

Particular attention will be devoted to the students' acquisition of skills required in job sectors such as literature teaching and publishing, which involve understanding how literary forms and genres have evolved through history and in relation to other cultural expressions.

Attività didattica

Menti ecologiche nella letteratura britannica.

Il corso inizierà con una introduzione alle teorie e alle metodologie della ecocritica, che esamina le interazioni fra gli umani e l'ambiente e l'impatto dei fenomeni antropogenici.

Si proseguirà con lo studio di testi creativi e critici di autori e autrici con una spiccata propensione per i temi dell'ecologia e della sostenibilità ambientale. Saranno esaminati dapprima presentando il contesto storico-culturale, poi compiendo una lettura approfondita delle opere.

Nelle lezioni conclusive le teorie e le definizioni presentate all'inizio del corso saranno riesaminate e ampliate attraverso il dialogo fra con gli studenti.

Walter Scott, "The Lay of the Last Minstrel", 1805.

William Wordsworth, *Poems*, 1858: "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud", written 1804, published 1807, pp. 144-145, "The Solitary Reaper", written 1805, published 1807, p. 222.

John Clare, *Poems Descriptive of Rural Life and Scenery*, 1820: “Helpstone”, pp. 3-11, “The Harvest Morning”, pp. 98-102; *The Rural Muse*, 1835: “Pastoral Fancies”, pp. 67-69, “The Pasture”, pp. 111-112, “Rural Scenes”, p. 113.

Thomas Hardy, *Under the Greenwood Tree. A Rural Painting of the Dutch School*, 1872.

Brian Aldiss, *Hothouse*, 1962.

Doris Lessing, *Mara and Dann: An Adventure*, 1999.

Sarah Moss, *Cold Earth*, 2009.

Ecological Minds in British Literature.

We will begin with an introduction to the theories and methods of ecocriticism, which examines the interactions between humans and the environment and the impact of anthropogenic phenomena.

We will investigate creative and critical texts by authors with a strong inclination towards ecology and environmental sustainability. They will be examined first by presenting their historical and cultural context, then by closely reading their works.

At the end of the course the theories and definitions presented at the beginning of the course will be re-examined and expanded through discussion.

William Wordsworth, *Poems*, 1858: “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”, written 1804, published 1807, pp. 144-145, “The Solitary Reaper”, written 1805, published 1807, p. 222.

Walter Scott, “The Lay of the Last Minstrel”, 1805.

John Clare, *Poems Descriptive of Rural Life and Scenery*, 1820: “Helpstone”, pp. 3-11, “The Harvest Morning”, pp. 98-102; *The Rural Muse*, 1835: “Pastoral Fancies”, pp. 67-69, “The Pasture”, pp. 111-112, “Rural Scenes”, p. 113.

Thomas Hardy, *Under the Greenwood Tree. A Rural Painting of the Dutch School*, 1872.

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Metodi didattici

Le lezioni si incentrano tanto sul contesto storico e culturale quanto su specifici autori/autrici e testi letterari. Incoraggiano un'interazione dialogica basata sia sulla presentazione di specifici contesti e testi sia sulla ricezione espressa dagli studenti attraverso commenti e interventi.

Classes tackle the historical and cultural context as well as specific authors and literary texts. They foster a dialogical interaction based on the presentation of specific contexts and texts as well as on the students' reception expressed through remarks and comments.

L'esame si articola in:

- A. una prova scritta, che verte su argomenti trattati nel corso monografico e indicati nei Contenuti del corso;
- B. una prova orale, incentrata sulla storia della letteratura e sul corso monografico.

La prova scritta può essere sostenuta separatamente dalla prova orale solo nell'appello previsto alla fine del corso e rivolto agli studenti frequentanti. A partire dall'appello successivo, le due prove devono essere sostenute unitamente nello stesso appello.

Modalità di verifica dell'apprendimento

Tutti i testi primari e critici in programma sono reperibili nella sezione Materiale didattico.

Agli studenti frequentanti si richiede:

- 1.a) lo studio di 2 saggi o capitoli sulla teoria e metodologia;
- 1.b) lo studio dei 5 testi primari in programma;
- 1.c) lo studio di 5 testi critici, precisamente 1 per ogni testo primario;
- 2) la conoscenza di un secolo della letteratura inglese a scelta.

Agli studenti non frequentanti si richiede:

- 1.a) lo studio di 5 saggi o capitoli sulla teoria e metodologia;
- 1.b) lo studio dei 5 testi primari in programma;
- 1.c) lo studio di 5 testi critici, precisamente 1 per ogni testo primario.
- 2) la conoscenza di due secoli della letteratura inglese a scelta.

The exam consists of:

- A. a written essay on the topics tackled during the classes and defined in the Contents of the course;
- B. an oral exam, focusing on the history of English literature as well as on the topics tackled during the classes.

The written part of the exam can be taken separately from and before the oral part only if you choose the first date available after the end of the course. After that date the written and the oral part of the exam will have to be taken jointly on the same day.

All primary and secondary works in the programme can be downloaded from Materiale didattico.

Assignments for the students who attend the course:

- 1.a) the study of 2 essays or chapters on theory and methodology;
- 1.b) the study of the 5 primary works tackled during the classes;
- 1.c) the study of 5 critical essays on the primary works in the bibliography, 1 per each primary work;
- 2) the study of a century of history of English literature.

Assignments for the students who do not attend the course:

- 1.a) the study of 5 essays or chapters on theory and methodology;
- 1.b) the study of the 5 primary works in the bibliography;
- 1.c) the study of 5 critical essays on the primary works in the bibliography, 1 per each primary work;
- 2) the study of two centuries of history of English literature.

Testi di riferimento

Teoria e metodologia (in ordine cronologico)

Theory and Methodology (in chronological order)

- Lawrence Buell, "The Ecocritical Insurgency", *New Literary History*, Issue on Ecocriticism, Vol. 30, No. 3 (Summer, 1999), pp. 699-712.
- Karen L. Kilcup, "Fresh Leaves: Practicing Environmental Criticism", *PMLA*, Vol. 124, No. 3 (May, 2009), pp. 847-855.
- Adam Trexler and Adeline Johns-Putra, "Climate Change in Literature and Literary Criticism", *WIREs Climate Change*, Vol. 2 (March/April 2011), pp. 185-200. doi: 10.1002/wcc.105.
- Adeline Johns-Putra, "A New Critical Climate", *Symploke. A Journal for the Intermingling of Literary, Cultural and Theoretical Scholarship*, Issue on Cultural Climate, Vol. 21, Nos 1-2 (2013), pp. 7-10.
- Adeline Johns-Putra, "Environmental Care Ethics: Notes Toward a New Materialist Critique", *Symploke. A Journal for the Intermingling of Literary, Cultural and Theoretical Scholarship*, Issue on Cultural Climate, Vol. 21, Nos 1-2 (2013), pp. 125-135.
- Gerry Canavan and Kim Stanley Robinson, eds, *Green Planets: Ecology and Science Fiction* (Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2014).
- Adeline Johns-Putra, "Climate Change in Literature and Literary Studies: From Cli-Fi, Climate Change Theater and Ecopoetry to Ecocriticism and Climate Change Criticism", *WIREs Climate Change*, Volume 7 (March/April 2016), pp. 266-282. doi: 10.1002/wcc.38.

Teoria e metodologia: opzionali

Theory and Methodology: optional

- Scott Slovic, *Literature*, in Dale Jamieson, ed., *A Companion to Environmental Philosophy* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2001), pp. 254-258.
- Lawrence Buell, *The Future of Environmental Criticism. Environmental Crisis and Literary Imagination* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2005).
- Greg Garrard, *Ecocriticism* (London: Routledge, 2011).
- John Parham, *The Environmental Tradition in English Literature* (London: Routledge, 2017).

Specific Critical Texts

Testi critici specifici

Walter Scott

- Susan Oliver, "Trees, Rivers, and Stories: Walter Scott Writing the Land", *The Yearbook of English Studies*, Vol. 47, Walter Scott: New Interpretations (2017), pp. 279-299.

William Wordsworth

- A. J. Raymer, "Virgil and Wordsworth: The Poetry of Romanticism", *Greece & Rome*, Vol. 9, No. 25 (Oct., 1939), pp. 13-25.
- Arthur S. Pfeffer and James A. W. Heffernan, "Wordsworth on Imagination", *PMLA*, Vol. 84, No. 1 (Jan., 1969), pp. 141-146.
- Karl Kroeber, "Constable and Wordsworth: The Ecological Moment of Romantic Art", *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*, Vol. 34 (1971), pp. 377-386.

John Clare

- Sarah Houghton, "The 'Community' of John Clare's Helpston", *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*, Vol. 46, No. 4, The Nineteenth Century (Autumn, 2006), pp. 781-802.

Alan Bewell, "John Clare and the Ghosts of Natures Past", *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, Vol. 65, No. 4 (March 2011), pp. 548-578.

Thomas Hardy

Harold E. Toliver, "The Dance Under the Greenwood Tree: Hardy's Bucolic", *Nineteenth-Century Fiction*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (Jun., 1962), pp. 57-68.

Elizabeth Carolyn Miller, "Dendrography and Ecological Realism", *Victorian Studies*, Vol. 58, No. 4, Summer 2016, pp. 696-718.

Brian Aldiss

Doris Lessing

Sarah Moss

Storia della letteratura inglese

a) *The New Cambridge History of English Literature*

L'Indice è consultabile all'indirizzo <https://www.cambridge.org/core/series/new-cambridge-history-of-english-literature/B453DBCE2E05A655AD55BB0DB4A25AC0>

b) *Oxford English Literary History*

L'Indice è consultabile all'indirizzo <https://global.oup.com/academic/content/series/o/oxford-english-literary-history-oelh/?lang=en&cc=it>

c) *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*

L'Indice è consultabile all'indirizzo <https://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/>

HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

a) *The New Cambridge History of English Literature*

The Table of Contents is available at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/series/new-cambridge-history-of-english-literature/B453DBCE2E05A655AD55BB0DB4A25AC0>

b) *Oxford English Literary History*

The Table of Contents is available at <https://global.oup.com/academic/content/series/o/oxford-english-literary-history-oelh/?lang=en&cc=it>

c) *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*

The Table of Contents is available at <https://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/>