

**Paola Spinozzi**

**English Literature I**  
**BA Course in MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**

**Academic Year 2019-2020**

### **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.

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.

### **Contenuti del corso**

#### ***Changing the (Cultural) Climate***

Could a literary genre save the planet? We will explore ecological thought from literary and interdisciplinary perspectives. We will focus on climate fiction as a genre, assessing how it can shape individual and collective behaviours. Close reading will be dedicated to *The Ice People* (1998) by Maggie Gee, *Mara and Dann. An Adventure* (1999) by Doris Lessing, and *The Song of the Earth* (2000) by Jonathan Bate. The course will involve students in workshops, discussions and presentations.

#### ***Cambiando il clima (culturale)***

Un genere letterario può salvare un pianeta? Esploreremo il pensiero ecologico da prospettive letterarie e interdisciplinari. Concentreremo l'attenzione sul climate fiction come genere, valutando come possa modellare i comportamenti individuali e collettivi. L'analisi testuale sarà dedicata a *The Ice People* (1998) di Maggie Gee, *Mara and Dann. An Adventure* (1999) di Doris Lessing e *The Song of the Earth* (2000) di Jonathan Bate. Il corso coinvolgerà gli studenti in workshops, discussioni e presentazioni.

### **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.

### **Modalità di verifica dell'apprendimento**

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.

Agli studenti frequentanti si richiede lo studio di:

- 1) *The Ice People* (1998) by Maggie Gee; *Mara and Dann. An Adventure* (1999) di Doris Lessing; *The Song of the Earth* (2000) di Jonathan Bate.
- 2) i Testi critici per studenti frequentanti;
- 3) il Novecento.

Agli studenti non frequentanti si richiede lo studio di:

- 1) *The Ice People* (1998) di Maggie Gee; *Mara and Dann. An Adventure* (1999) di Doris Lessing; *The Song of the Earth* (2000) di Jonathan Bate.
- 2) i Testi critici per studenti non frequentanti;
- 3) il Novecento.

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.

Assignments for the students who attend the course:

- 1) *The Ice People* (1998) by Maggie Gee; *Mara and Dann. An Adventure* (1999) by Doris Lessing; *The Song of the Earth* (2000) by Jonathan Bate.
- 2) the Critical Texts for attending students;
- 3) the twentieth century.

Assignments for the students who do not attend the course:

- 1) *The Ice People* (1998) by Maggie Gee; *Mara and Dann. An Adventure* (1999) by Doris Lessing; *The Song of the Earth* (2000) by Jonathan Bate.
- 2) the Critical Texts for attending students;
- 3) the twentieth century.

## **Testi di riferimento**

## **TESTI PRIMARI PRIMARY TEXTS**

Maggie Gee, *The Ice People* (London: Metro Books, 1998);  
Doris Lessing, *Mara and Dann. An Adventure* (London: HarperCollins, 1999);  
Jonathan Bate, *The Song of the Earth* (Harvard: Harvard University Press, 2000).

## TESTI CRITICI CRITICAL TEXTS

### Per studenti frequentanti For attending students

Jean Arnold, Lawrence Buell, Michael P. Cohen, Elizabeth Dodd, Simon C. Estok, Ursula K. Heise, Jonathan Levin, Patrick D. Murphy, Andrea Parra, William Slaymaker, Scott Slovic, Timothy Sweet and Louise Westling, *Forum on Literatures of the Environment*, in *PMLA*, Vol. 114, No. 5 (October 1999), pp. 1089-1104.

Adeline Johns-Putra, "Care and Gender in a Climate-Changed Future: Maggie Gee's *The Ice People*", in Gerry Canavan and Kim Stanley Robinson, eds, *Green Planets: Ecology and Science Fiction* (Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2014), pp. 127-142.

Axel Goodbody, "Ecocritical Theory: Romantic Roots and Impulses from Twentieth-century European Writers"; Timothy Clark, "Nature, Post Nature"; Kate Rigby, "Confronting Catastrophe: Ecocriticism in a Warming World", in *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and the Environment*, ed. by Louise Westling (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014). [Biblioteca A. Bassi].

Tom Sperlinger, "Radical Pedagogy in Doris Lessing's *Mara and Dann*", in *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, Vol. 58, No. 3 (2017), pp. 300-311.

Paola Spinozzi, "In a Prescient Mode: (Un)Sustainable Society in the Post/Apocalyptic Genre", in *Cultures of Sustainability and Wellbeing: Theories, Histories and Policies*, ed. by Paola Spinozzi and Massimiliano Mazzanti (New York and London: Routledge, 2018), pp. 85-104. [Biblioteca A. Bassi]

### Per studenti non frequentanti For non-attending students

Jean Arnold, Lawrence Buell, Michael P. Cohen, Elizabeth Dodd, Simon C. Estok, Ursula K. Heise, Jonathan Levin, Patrick D. Murphy, Andrea Parra, William Slaymaker, Scott Slovic, Timothy Sweet and Louise Westling, *Forum on Literatures of the Environment*, in *PMLA*, Vol. 114, No. 5 (October 1999), pp. 1089-1104.

Kim Stanley Robinson, "Remarks on Utopia in the Age of Climate Change"; Rupert Read, "Care, Love and Our Responsibility to the Future"; John Clute, "Truth is Consequence", in *Changing the Climate: Utopia, Dystopia and Catastrophe*, ed. by Andrew Milner, Simon Sellars and Verity Burgmann (Melbourne: Arena Publications, 2011).

Adeline Johns-Putra, "Care and Gender in a Climate-Changed Future: Maggie Gee's *The Ice People*", in Gerry Canavan and Kim Stanley Robinson, eds, *Green Planets: Ecology and Science Fiction* (Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2014), pp. 127-142.

Axel Goodbody, "Ecocritical Theory: Romantic Roots and Impulses from Twentieth-century European Writers"; Timothy Clark, "Nature, Post Nature"; Kate Rigby, "Confronting Catastrophe: Ecocriticism in a Warming World", in *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and the Environment*, ed. by Louise Westling (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014). [Biblioteca A. Bassi].

Tom Sperlinger, "Radical Pedagogy in Doris Lessing's *Mara and Dann*", in *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, Vol. 58, No. 3 (2017), pp. 300-311.

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## Storia della letteratura inglese

Andrew Sanders, *The Short Oxford History of English Literature* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994).

Edward Albert, *History of English Literature*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).

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-oeih/?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

Andrew Sanders, *The Short Oxford History of English Literature* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994).

Edward Albert, *History of English Literature*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).

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-oeih/?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/>