

English Literature I

MA Course in Modern Languages and Literatures

Academic Year 2020-2021

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 e interpretare il loro valore estetico, etico e ideologico.

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.

Teaching Objectives

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 to literary texts and interpreting their aesthetic, ethical and ideological value.

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.

Contenuti del corso

POESIA [E] NATURA

Esamineremo la poesia sulla natura, che nel canone letterario occidentale comprende: la pastorale classica; versioni rinascimentali della pastorale; poesia paesaggistica del XVIII secolo; poesie dei Romantici sulla natura; il genere contemporaneo della ecopoesia. La ecopoesia sottolinea l'interconnessione fra la vita umana e non umana in un'epoca di impatto antropico sull'ambiente e prefigura il futuro del nostro pianeta riesaminando il nostro rapporto con il mondo naturale.

Lecture approfondite si concentreranno su:

la poesia sulla natura nel Romanticismo;

la poesia sulla natura in epoca vittoriana;

la poesia georgiana nel Novecento;

la poesia ecologica contemporanea.

Contents of the Course

NATURE [AND] POETRY

We will focus on nature poetry, which in the western literary canon comprises: classical pastoral; Renaissance versions of pastoral; 18th-century landscape poetry; Romantic poems on nature; the contemporary genre of ecological poetry. Ecopoetry emphasises the interconnectedness of human and nonhuman life in a time of anthropogenic impact on the environment and envisions the future of our planet by re-examining our relationship with the natural world.

Close reading will concentrate on:

Nature poetry in Romanticism;

Nature poetry in the Victorian Age;

Georgian poetry in the twentieth century;
Contemporary ecological poetry.

Metodi didattici

Le lezioni si svolgeranno in parte su piattaforma e in parte in presenza. Tutte le lezioni saranno registrate e rese disponibili agli studenti. Le lezioni si incentreranno tanto sul contesto storico e culturale quanto su specifici autori/autrici e testi letterari. Per favorire l'interazione, il docente esporrà specifici contesti e testi e gli studenti saranno incoraggiati a partecipare con commenti e interventi.

Orario scaricabile da Materiale didattico.

Teaching Methods

Some classes will be online and others will be face-to-face. All classes will be recorded and made available to the students. Classes will tackle the historical and cultural context as well as specific authors and literary texts. To foster interaction, specific contexts and texts will be presented and students' comments and questions will be encouraged.

Timetable downloadable from Materiale didattico.

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.

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

Agli studenti frequentanti si richiede:

- 1.a) lo studio dei testi primari in programma;
- 1.b) lo studio dei 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 dei testi primari in programma;
- 1.b) lo studio dei testi critici, precisamente 1 per ogni testo primario.
- 2) la conoscenza di due secoli della letteratura inglese a scelta.

Assessment Methods

The exam consists of:

- A. a written essay on the topics of the course;
 - B. an oral exam, focusing on the history of English literature as well as on the topics of the course.
- 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 critical works can be downloaded from Materiale didattico.

Assignments for the students who attend the course:

- 1.a) the study of the primary works;

- 1.b) the study of the critical works, 1 per 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 the primary works in the bibliography;
- 1.b) the study of the critical works, 1 per primary work;
- 2) the study of two centuries of history of English literature.

TESTI PRIMARI / PRIMARY TEXTS

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Aeolian Harp” (1795, published 1796), “Frost at Midnight” (1798), “Kubla Kahn” (1797, published 1816), in *Selected Poems* (1906).

William Morris, “The Lapse of the Year”, in *A Book of Verse* (1870); “An Apology”, “Prologue – The Wanderers. Argument”, pp. 3-6, in *The Earthly Paradise* (1868-1870), Volume I.

Vita Sackville West, “A Saxon Song”, in *Orchard and Vineyard* (1921); *The Land* (1926); *The Garden* (1946).

10:10 *Review climate change special*, published in *The Guardian* on Friday 25 September 2009, <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/series/10-10-climate-change-special/2009/sep/25/all>.

Carol Rumens, “2084” (2009), <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2009/sep/26/2084-carol-rumens>

Kathleen Jamie, “The Spider” (2009), <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2009/sep/26/the-spider-kathleen-jamie>

Andrew Motion, “The Sorcerer’s Mirror” (2009), <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2009/sep/26/the-sorcers-mirror-andrew-motion>

Keep It in the Ground. An anthology of poetry on climate change, curated by British poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy and published in *The Guardian* on 11 May 2015,

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/11/an-anthology-of-poetry-on-climate-change>

Carol Ann Duffy, “Parliament” (2015), <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/mar/27/keep-it-in-the-ground-a-poem-by-carol-ann-duffy>

Matthew Hollis (2015), “Causeway”, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/20/a-climate-change-poem-for-today-causeway-by-matthew-hollis>

Michael Longley, “Storm” (2015), <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/22/a-climate-change-poem-for-today-storm-by-michael-longley>

Jackie Kay, “Extinction” (2015), <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/may/15/a-climate-change-poem-for-today-extinction-by-jackie-kay>

TESTI CRITICI - CRITICAL TEXTS

THEORY AND METHODOLOGY

Lynn White Jr, “The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis”, *Science*, vol. 155, no. 3767, 1967, pp. 1203–1207.

Jonathan Bate, *The Song of the Earth*, Harvard, Harvard University Press, 2000.
Three chapters of your choice.

Greg Garrard, *Ecocriticism*, Abingdon, Routledge, 2004.
“Beginnings: Pollution”; “Pastoral”; “Apocalypse”; “Wilderness”.

Greg Garrard, *Teaching Ecocriticism and Green Cultural Studies*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.
Two chapters of your choice.

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

James C. McKusick, “Coleridge and the Economy of Nature”, *Studies in Romanticism*, Fall, 1996,
Vol. 35, No. 3, Green Romanticism, pp. 375-392.

WILLIAM MORRIS

John Holmes, “Sustaining the Earthly Paradise”, in *Victorian Sustainability in Literature and Culture*, ed. Wendy Parkins, London and New York, Routledge, 2017, pp. 32-50.

Elizabeth Carolyn Miller, “William Morris, Extraction Capitalism, and the Aesthetics of Surface”,
Victorian Studies, Vol. 57, No. 3 (Spring 2015), pp. 395-404.

VITA SACKVILLE-WEST

Elizabeth W. Pomeroy, “Within Living Memory: Vita Sackville-West’s Poems of *Land and Garden*”,
Twentieth Century Literature, Vol. 28, No. 3 (Autumn, 1982), pp. 269-289.

ECOPOETRY

James Randerson, “A story of hope: *The Guardian* launches phase II of its climate change campaign”,
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/oct/05/a-story-of-hope-the-guardian-launches-phase-two-of-its-climate-change-campaign>”.

HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

Ronald Carter, John McRae, eds, *The Routledge History of Literature in English. Britain and Ireland*,
London and New York: Routledge, 2017, 3rd Edition [Downloadable from Materiale didattico].