

English Literature II

BA Course in Modern Languages and Literatures

Academic Year 2021-2022

Obiettivi formativi

Gli studenti approfondiranno le loro conoscenze della letteratura e della cultura britannica da 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.

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.

Contenuti del corso

Miti nordici e saghe in Gran Bretagna

Eploreremo la ricezione della letteratura norrena e la riscrittura di miti e saghe islandesi da parte di William Morris, Matthew Arnold, Thomas Carlyle, Antonia Byatt e nella serie televisiva *Ragnarök* (2020 e 2021).

Norse Myths and Sagas in Great Britain

We will explore the reception of Norse literature and the rewriting of Icelandic myths and sagas by Matthew Arnold, Thomas Carlyle, William Morris, Antonia Byatt, and in the TV series *Ragnarök* (2020 and 2021).

Metodi didattici

Le lezioni si svolgeranno in streaming e in presenza. Saranno registrate e rese disponibili agli studenti sulla piattaforma SEA gestita dall'Università di Ferrara. 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.

L'orario è scaricabile dal sito docente: <https://docente.unife.it/paola.spinozzi/didattica>.

Teaching Methods

Classes will be face-to-face and live-streamed. They will be recorded and made available to the students on the SEA platform managed by the University of Ferrara. 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.

The timetable is downloadable from the web site: <https://docente.unife.it/paola.spinozzi/didattica>.

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

Matthew Arnold, *Balder Dead, An Episode* (1835), in *Poems, Second Edition*, in *The Works of Matthew Arnold in Fifteen Volumes* (New York: Ams Press, 1970), I.

Thomas Carlyle, 'I. The Hero as Divinity. Odin. Paganism: Scandinavian Mythology', in *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History*, Notes and Introduction by Michael K. Goldberg; text established by Michael K. Goldberg, Joel J. Brattin, and Mark Engel (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993).

- E. D. LeMire, ed., *The Unpublished Lectures of William Morris* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1969).
- Eiríkr Magnússon and William Morris, Preface to *Grettis Saga: The Story of Grettir the Strong* [1869], trans. by Eiríkr Magnússon and William Morris, in *The Collected Works of William Morris*, with Introductions by his Daughter May Morris, 24 vols, London, Longmans Green and Co., 1911, VII, pp. xlv-xlv.
- William Morris, *The Lovers of Gudrun*, in *The Earthly Paradise. A Poem. III*, in *The Collected Works of William Morris*, V (London: Ellis, 1868-1870).
- Antonia Susan Byatt, *Ragnarök. The End of the Gods* (Edinburgh: Canongate, 2011).
- Adam Price, *Ragnarök*, 2020. Written by Adam Price, Simen Alsvik, Marietta von Hausswolff von Baumgarten, Christian Gamst Miller-Harris, Jacob Katz Hansen, directed by Mogens Hagedorn, Jannik Johansen, Mads Kamp Thulstrup.

TESTI CRITICI / CRITICAL TEXTS

- Conrad Hjalmar Nordby, *The Influence of Old Norse Literature upon English Literature*, New York - Columbia College, Columbia University Germanic Studies, 1900, vol. 1, no. 3.
- Andrew Wawn, *The Vikings and the Victorians: Inventing the Old North in Nineteenth-century Britain*, Cambridge - Rochester (NY), D.S. Brewer, 2000.

Thomas Carlyle

- “Introduction”, in *On Heroes, Hero-worship and the Heroic in History*, Notes and Introduction by Michael K. Goldberg; text established by Michael K. Goldberg, Joel J. Brattin, and Mark Engel, Berkeley, University of California Press, 1993, pp. XXI-XXXX

Matthew Arnold

- Philip Raisor, “Matthew Arnold’s *Balder Dead*: An Exercise in Objectivity”, in *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*, Vol. 13, No. 4, Nineteenth Century (Autumn, 1973), pp. 653-669, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/449807>

William Morris

- Paola Spinozzi, “Stoicism among the Victorians? The Legacy of Old Norse Sagas in William Morris’s Utopian Views of Humanity”, in Ástráður Eysteinnsson (ed.), *The Cultural Reconstruction of Places*, Reykjavik, University of Iceland Press, 2006, pp. 186-199.
- Paola Spinozzi, “The Topos of *Ragnarök* in the Utopian Thought of William Morris”, in *Eddische Götter und Helden. Milieus und Medien ihrer Rezeption / Eddic Gods and Heroes. The Milieux and Media of Their Reception*, ed. by Katja Schulz (Heidelberg: Winter, 2011), pp. 187-198.

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].