Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2019-2020

Italian Literature: Specific Problems II (A000197)

Course size  (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)
Credits  5.0 Study time  150 h Contact hrs  45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020
A (semester 2) Italian seminar  30.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Toracca, Tiziano LW07 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in  2019-2020  crdts offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages (main subject Linguistics and Literature)  5 A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Dutch - Italian)  5 A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject English - Italian)  5 A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject French - Italian)  5 A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject German - Italian)  5 A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature (main subject Latin - Italian)  5 A
Master of Arts in Historical Linguistics and Literature  5 A
Exchange Programme Historical Linguistics and Literature  5 A

Teaching languages
Italian

Keywords
Italian literature, history of ideas, historical, philosophical and literary context of the XIII and XIV centuries, Middle ages and Pre-Humanism, Giovanni Boccaccio, Decameron, theory and history of the novella, analysis of the text.

Position of the course
This specialized course is a continuation of the Bachelor's Program in Italian and offers an in-depth study of an issue in Italian literary theory and the history of ideas from a diachronic perspective.
This course is in keeping with the core learning outcomes of the Master's Program: M.1.1.; M.1.3.; M.1.4.; M.1.6.; M.2.3.; M.3.1.; M.3.3.; M.3.4.; M.4.1.; M.4.2.; M.5.3.

Contents
We will examine the historical, philosophical and literary context of the XIII and the XIV centuries, focusing on the transition from Medieval Literature to Humanism. We will study the life and the works of Giovanni Boccaccio (1313-1374) and we will examine his main work, the Decameron and in particular its specific structure, its ideology and its thematic and formal innovations. We will analyse some "novelle" of the Decameron by focusing on the formal features of each novella by reading some critical essays (among others: Auerbach, Branca, Luperini, ). The students will be guided to explore the most relevant and disputed concepts of the Decameron such as "natura", "caso" and "ingegno". Starting from the Decameron, we will also examine the theory and the history of the novella.

Initial competences
A thorough knowledge of Italian. The course is based methodologically and literally-historically on the knowledge acquired at bachelor level and aims at an in-depth study

(Approved)
of a special issue from Italian literary history.

Final competences

1. Have an excellent knowledge of Italian and use it fluently in various contexts.
2. Apply in-depth scientific insight in the specific features of literary texts and in the historical functioning of Italian literature.
3. Evaluate analyzing methods of literary theory in an active and critical way and use them for the approach of new problems.
4. Evaluate historical, cultural and sociopolitical phenomena and processes in the Italian region in a critical way.
5. Apply theoretical models and analyzing methods on complex problems in a critical way.
6. Dispose of excellent language awareness: understand the crucial role of language in human interaction and cultural production and handle language accordingly in a creative way.
7. Reflect critically on the personal research and on the research of peers.
9. Report in Italian about the field of study and about the own research, both orally and in writing.
10. Present research results orally and in writing in an academically correct form of critical and philologically correct reading skills.
11. Integrate social responsibility and commitment, cultural sensitivity and respect for diversity in the scientific work.
12. Demonstrate historical insight in the literary presentations of life stages and generations.
13. Interpret contemporary Italian literature from the perspective of the generation question.
14. Have a thorough command of critical reading skills.
15. Oral and written reporting in Italian about the discipline and your own research (B2-C1 level)

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lessons: the students will take part in the discussion interactively. The lecturer will use power point presentations and he will hand out supplementary material.

Independent work: the students will read the "novelle" of the Decameron and the critical essays handed out in order to discuss and participate during the lessons.

Learning materials and price

Learning materials in Italian and English will be provided by the lecturer. Students will be guided to find additional materials in the libraries.


Italian language:
- Non native speakers cfr. Italiaanse taalkunde III

References

See the bibliography distributed during the lectures

Course content-related study coaching

Tutoring by native speakers of Literature interns. Group or individual tutoring to prepare for the evaluations.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination

(Approved)
Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation
Written examination, oral examination

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods
1 paper on individual research and/or one of the themes and/or works analysed in the course.
1 oral presentation on one of the themes and/or works analysed in the course.
1 final written exam (series of short questions and series of short open questions on the subject of the course)
The language proficiency will be assessed in the written assignments as well as during the oral presentation.

Language Competences:
Proper use of advanced terminology at the advanced level
Proper use of the Italian language (grammar and vocabulary)

Calculation of the examination mark
Oral presentation in classroom: 30%
Paper: 30%
Final written exam: 40%
Students who do not participate in all the three evaluation assignments (paper, oral presentation, final written exam) cannot pass the course.

Score calculation language proficiency and scientific terminology - Individual presentation 10-15%; Paper 25%; Written exam 15%

Facilities for Working Students
Facilities:
1 Student attendance during educational activities is required
2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3 Feedback can be given by telephone or during an appointment during office hours

Extra information:
For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy