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del Sacro Cuore

LT/AR330 - The Female Character in Italian Contemporary Literature and Culture

PROF. ELEONORA FORNASARI/Prof. CARMELA PIERINI

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will provide an insight into the major feminine characters portrayed in Italian literature and culture of the XIX and XX centuries concerning texts and other peculiar forms of Italian arts, as cinema and opera. The students will have the opportunity to explore different literary archetypes comparing them with contemporary stereotypes on women's role in society welcoming a comparative approach. From the femme fatale to the "angel of the house", from the disappointed lover to the maternal role, the course will develop an awareness of continuities and differences in representing femininity in contemporary culture with a special focus on the Italian background. Its purpose will be to encourage a critical approach to contemporary society throughout selected material and by involving students' participation.

COURSE CONTENTS

- "The Betrothed", Alessandro Manzoni;
- "Fosca", Igino Ugo Tarchetti;
- "The troubadour", Giuseppe Verdi – Salvatore Cammarano;
- "The Pleasure", Gabriele D'Annunzio;
- "The Sparrow", "She-Wolf", Giovanni Verga;
- "Artemisia", Anna Banti;
- "My Brilliant Friend", "Troubling Love" Elena Ferrante

Movies:

- Rocco e i suoi fratelli (Luchino Visconti, 1960)
- La notte (Michelangelo Antonioni, 1961)
- Ieri, oggi e domani (Vittorio De Sica, 1963)
- L'amore molesto (Mario Martone, 1995)
- Un viaggio chiamato amore (Michele Placido, 2002)

PREREQUISITES

None

METHOD OF TEACHING

Active, "learn by doing" approach, professional guest speakers and field trips related to the contents of the course. Class discussion. Intersections with other artistic disciplines like cinema, television, theatre and arts. Class readings and assignments.

Exams:



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Midterm exam: theoretical with multiple choice test and text analysis.
Final exam: group presentation to be decided with the teachers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to get their credits, students will be required to:

- Attend class regularly.
- Participate actively to the class activities.
- Keep up with the assigned readings and the individual and group assignments. The aim is to let the student acquire a critic approach to literature (in its different expressive forms).
- Pass the midterm and the final exam.

CREDITS

6 ECTS

GRADING

Attendance and class participation	20 % of final grade
Group assignments + class presentation	20 % of final grade
Midterm test	30 % of final grade
Final oral exam	30 % of final grade

COURSE READINGS AND MATERIALS

All the readings will be available in a course pack and the lecturer's slides and videos will be available on Blackboard.

RULES OF CONDUCT

Attendance is mandatory (more than two unjustified absences will negatively impact the final grade by half-a-point for each unjustified absence), as well as the punctual reading of the material assigned.

The students are expected to arrive on time, to actively participate in class activities and to read the assigned material. Water, tea or coffee are permitted, but no eating will be permitted in class. Cell phones are to be turned off during class.

Exam date: exam dates communicated in the syllabus for the midterm and final cannot be re-scheduled. Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. In cases of unforeseeable circumstances such as illness or injury on the day of the exams, the student must submit a medical certificate and communicate his/her absence to the Professor and UCSC International Office via email prior to the exam. If the student does not justify his/her absence through sufficient documentation and with adequate notice before the final test, the student will receive an automatic Failed.



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INSTRUCTOR BIO

Eleonora Fornasari holds a degree in "Modern Philology" and a Master in "International screenwriting and production". She is a scriptwriter and journalist and she is currently undertaking a Ph.D. at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan to combine her research interests with her professional background focused on production of media content for children. In fact, she has worked as a screenwriter of animated TV-series in Italy and UK and for the Italian public broadcaster RAI. Furthermore, she is assistant professor of the academic courses "History and languages of International cinema", "Italian contemporary literature" and "Italian grammar" and teaches as well "Digital Journalism and Digital Media in Italy", within the UCSC International Curriculum.

Carmela Pierini holds a Ph.D in Italian Studies from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) with a thesis entitled "Writing Intersections: A Study of Anna Banti's Role as Novelist, Literary Essayist and Editor of the Journal «Paragone»". She collaborates with the Catholic University of Milan as Assistant professor for the courses of Italian for Communication, Italian Contemporary Literature and Italian Literature moreover she is member of the scientific secretary of «Otto/Novecento», peer-reviewed four-monthly journal of literary criticism. Her research focuses on female writing and literature intersections with specific attention to *écckfrasis*, connections between literature and advertising and syncretic intellectuals, as Vittorio Sereni, Emilio Cecchi, Niccolò Gallo, Sergio Solmi, Elio Vittorini, who were not only writers but also editors, literary critics, copywriters. In addition she works as professional editor for EDUCatt and founded in Milan her own publishing house Officinaventuno.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

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