

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Siena

Course Title: Love Poetry in Italian Literature: from Middle Ages to Renaissance

Course Code: ITAL3250

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Suggested Cross Listings: Italian Studies, Italian Literature, Italian Language

Language of Instruction: Italian

Prerequisites/Requirements: Open to advanced learners of Italian (two years minimum or equivalent)



Description

This course covers a variety of important poets and writers of the Italian Medieval and Renaissance times (Dante, Petrarca, Ariosto, Tasso and others) and focuses on the theme of love. The aim of the course is to illustrate how central this topic was to Italian poetry, and how immensely influential it proved to be in the diffusion of Italian culture abroad.

Objectives

During this course, students:

- Develop a solid understanding of Italian ancient poetry, from the origin of "*lirica volgare*" at beginning of the 13th century to the Renaissance
- Improve overall Italian language skills through the study of poetry and learn what components of the language used in the texts can be adopted into modern speech
- Improve Italian vocabulary, with particular emphasis on adjectives and descriptive modifiers
- Achieve solid familiarity with the major themes and examples of love poetry in the Middle ages and Renaissance: the Sicilian school and courtesy love poetry, *Dolce Stil Novo*, Dante's love poems, Petrarca's *Canzoniere*, love lyrics from Ariosto's "*Orlando Furioso*", lyrics from Tasso's "*Gerusalemme Liberata*".

Course Requirements

Students must complete all reading assignments before coming to class. Assignments average 10 to 15 pages per class session. They are responsible for fully preparing to discuss the poetry in class by looking up all unknown vocabulary and attempting to parse the grammar structures used in each poem.

The class is organized as follows: lecture; paraphrasing of the text; analysis of vocabulary, allegories, figures etc.; discussion on the lines read and the poem's position in Italian literary history.

Students are required to submit four writing assignments over the course of the term. Each writing assignment consists of two typed pages and focuses on one of the suggested topics provided by the instructor. Assignments must be written in polished Italian and are be graded on both content and written Italian form.

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There is a final examination comprising written and oral sections. The written section includes both essay and multiple-choice questions about central themes and authors studied in the course. The oral section of the exam includes a short commentary about one of the texts read and analyzed during the course.

Over the course of the term, students are required to schedule two 20-minute individual appointments with the instructor. The purpose of these appointments is to ask questions about material covered in class, discuss particular course concerns, review homework assignments, etc. These meetings are required and are considered a part of the student's attendance grade.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

Final exam	35%
Writing projects	40% (4 projects each worth 10%)
Participation	15%
Attendance	10%

Primary Texts

R. Luperini, P. Cataldi, L. Marchiani, V. Tinacci, *La Scrittura e l'interpretazione*, Palermo, Palumbo, 2004, edizione arancione, vol. 1 *Dalle origini al Manierismo (1610)*.

Supplementary Texts

Additional poetry and articles as selected by the instructor.

Outline of Course Content

Note: Fall/Spring students cover approximately 1 topic every 1 to 2 weeks. During the summer, when class periods are longer, students cover approximately 1 topic per week.

Topic 1 - Introduction to the Medieval Period

Characteristics of the period.

Stylistic metrics of poetry, specifically love poetry.

Topic 2 - The Sicilian School and the Origin of the Love Sonnet at the Court of Frederick II of Swabia

Giacomo da Lentini, Cielo d'Alcamo, Pier delle Vigne.

Characteristics of the love lyrics: codification of images and rigid repertory.

Topic 3 – *Il Dolce Stil Nuovo* in Tuscany: Heritage from the Sicilian School and Innovation.

Guido Guinizzelli, Guido Cavalcanti.

Biographical notes.

Topic 4 - Dante

Essential biography.

Text "Vita nuova". Brief excerpts chosen from capitols II, V, X-XI, XIX, XXVI, XXIII and XXXV.

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Metric/stylistic analyses and paraphrase of poetic texts.

Topic 5 - Dante

Texts from "*Rime*" Petrose: Dante's different approach to love. Comparison with la "*Vita Nova*" style.

Topic 6 - Francesco Petrarca

Essential biography.

Text "*Il canzoniere*".

Metric/stylistic analyses and paraphrasing of: "*Erano i capei d'oro a l'aura sparsi*".

Analysis and paraphrasing of "*Chiare, fresche et dolci acque*".

Topic 7 - Introduction to the Renaissance

Similarities and differences between the Medieval and Renaissance periods.

The imitation of Petrarca in the 16th century.

Petrarchism and antipetrarchism.

Topic 8 - Ludovico Ariosto

Essential biography.

Text "*L'Orlando furioso*".

Metric/stylistic analyses and paraphrase of: "*Angelica in fuga*" (I 5-45; 48-71).

Topic 9 - Torquato Tasso

Essential biography.

Text "*Gerusalemme liberata*" furioso".

Metric/stylistic analyses and paraphrase of: "*Il duello di Clorinda e Tancredi*" (XII 1-9; 18-19; 48-70).