

University Courses

History of Italian language and literature

Duration

4 or 6 weeks. 2,5 hours of lesson given both in English and Italian twice a week.

Prerequisites

Sufficient understanding of morpho-syntactical structures of the Italian language and a fair level of conversational skills are required.

Materials

Students will be provided with reading materials. Audio-visual and multimedia materials will be utilized in the classroom.

Objectives

To guide students through the historical development of the Italian language and literature. Special attention will be given to the texts, such as direct expression of ideas and different cultural practices throughout the ages. Attention will also be given to the comprehension and use of language specific to the discipline.

Students will have the opportunity to analyze, interpret and discuss content and linguistic structures of the works of various authors throughout the ages.

Methodology

Lectures as well as interactive group activities will be utilized. Optional visits to place of particular historical and cultural interest will be scheduled.

Contents

The course will be divided into 8 units according to the historical chronological sequence. At the end of each unit, an oral test will be given. Furthermore, throughout the course additional quizzes may be given to verify retention of the materials presented. A written final exam will be given at the conclusion of the course. The exam may be in the form of multiple choice, true or false, short answer and essay questions.

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No.	Title	Contents	Duration (hrs)
1	History of the Italian Language; The birth of Italian Literature	From Vulgar to Italian; The first Writings in Vulgar and the Sicilian and Tuscan poetry of the 13th century.	5
2	Dante and The Divine Comedy	The life and works of Dante Alighieri as <i>summa</i> of the medieval thought.	5
3	The intellectual of the middle ages and of the Renaissance	Francesco Petrarca, the new intellectual; The humanist intellectual; The intellectual and the power; Giovanni Boccaccio and the middle class.	5
4	Chivalry and the evolution of the epic poem	The <i>Orlando furioso</i> of Ludovico Ariosto and the <i>Gerusalemme liberata</i> of Torquato Tasso	2,5
5	The political thought in the modern age	Niccolò Machiavelli and the autonomy of politics with reference to the history of Italian literature from 1500 to 1700.	2,5
6	Ideas of nature. Verism	Ugo Foscolo and Giacomo Leopardi; Giovanni Verga.	2,5
7	Images of the poet in the Italian literature	Giosuè Carducci, Giovanni Pascoli, Gabriele D'Annunzio, Giuseppe Ungaretti and Eugenio Montale	2,5
8	The novel of the crisis; The grand transformation of the 1950's and 60's	Italo Svevo and Luigi Pirandello; Post-war literary tendencies and their representatives	5