

University Courses

History of Italian language and literature

Duration

45 hours of lesson given both in English and Italian.

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 14 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.

University Courses

No.	Title	Contents	Duration (hrs)
1	History of the Italian Language	From Vulgar to Italian	3
2	The birth of Italian Literature	The first Writings in Vulgar and the Sicilian and Tuscan poetry of the 13th century	3
3	Dante and The Divine Comedy	The life and works of Dante Alighieri as <i>summa</i> of the medieval thought	5
4	The intellectual of the middle ages and of the Renaissance	Francesco Petrarca, the new intellectual; The humanist intellectual; The intellectual and the power	3
5	The genre of the short story	Ancient and modern short stories: from Giovanni Boccaccio to Luigi Pirandello	5
6	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	3
7	The political thought in the modern age	Niccolò Machiavelli and the autonomy of politics	3
8	Poetry between imitation and innovation	From petrarchism to baroque experimentalism from the Arcadia to Neo-classicism	3
9	Ideas of nature	From Galileo Galilei to Ugo Foscolo and Giacomo Leopardi	3
10	Verism	Giovanni Verga and the veristic poetry	2
11	Images of the poet in the Italian literature	Giosuè Carducci, Giovanni Pascoli, Gabriele D'Annunzio, Giuseppe Ungaretti and Eugenio Montale	5
12	The novel of the crisis	Italo Svevo and Luigi Pirandello	3
13	The century of women	The literary figure of Sibilla Aleramo	2
14	The grand transformation of the 1950's and 60's	Postwar literary tendencies and their representatives	2