



General information	
Academic subject	Comparative Literature
Degree course	LM 78 Philosophical Sciences
Academic Year	2022-2023
European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)	6
Language	Italian
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	Firts Semester
Attendance	Attendance recommended but not required

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Syllabus	
Learning Objectives	The course is aimed at enhancing a supranational critical interpretation of literary works by adapting the hermeneutical tools of literature and philology for a wide cultural approach.
Course prerequisites	The students should know about periodisation and the principal issues regarding the history of European literature. The students should be able to manage a methodology in literary criticism. The students should be able to read and understand at least a UE language.
Contents	<p><i>The Europe that doesn't exist: counterfactual narrations and possible worlds.</i></p> <p>The course examines some uchronic and counterfactual novels (utopias or dystopias) in order to define some specific characteristics of their literary genre and how they work out a critical analysis of the real world. The divergence from reality, as concerning important historical events that marked epochal turning points, will be also considered by the trauma studies perspective.</p> <p>In addition to rethinking topical moments of Europe's political history the indicated novels turn out to be an efficient instrument for deconstructing the stereotypical cultural heritage of the old continent: the deviation that leads to alternate history questions the centuries-old paradigm of imitation along with the word pair reality/fiction on which it rests by redrawing the boundaries between the disciplines like in the fluid relation between history and narration as suggested by Hayden White. Considering its peculiar critical perspective, uchronic literature addresses real political and cultural problematics and in so doing claims its own plausibility: the fictive Europe</p>

	becomes a warning for the world to come. The fictive Europe can be a warning for the Europe to come.
Books and bibliography	<p>C. Gallagher, <i>Telling It Like It Wasn't: The Counterfactual Imagination in History and Fiction</i>, Chicago, Chicago University Press, 2018</p> <p>Kurtz (ed. by), <i>Trauma and Literature</i> (2018) (selected chapters)</p> <p>Pavel, <i>Fictional Worlds</i> (1986) (selected chapters)</p> <p>H. White, <i>The Historical Text as Literary Artifact</i>, in B. Richardson, <i>Narrative Dynamics: Essays on Time, Plot, Closure and Frames</i>, Columbus, The Ohio State University Press, 2002, pp. 191-210</p> <p>Two novels among the following: J.G. Ballard, <i>Il mondo sommerso</i>, Feltrinelli 2015 P Dick, <i>La svastica sul sole</i>, Fanucci 2019 R. Harris, <i>Fatherland</i>, Mondadori 2017 G. Morselli, <i>Contropassato prossimo</i>, Adelphi 2016 Musil, <i>L'uomo senza qualità</i>, Einaudi 2014</p>
Additional materials	Further bibliographical indications and additional material will be provided during the course.

Work schedule			
Total	Lectures	Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
Hours			
150	42		108
ECTS			
Teaching strategy		Front lessons, seminars and panels	
Expected learning outcomes			
Knowledge and understanding on:		During the course in Comparative Literature the students acquire theoretical and methodological skills in at least two literatures (apart from Italian literature) and their respective cultures as well as in the reception phenomena of literary works in different contexts.	
Applying knowledge and understanding on:		By means of analysis of literary texts the students acquaint themselves with one or more cultures other than the Italian culture and develop critical contextualisation skills useful for understanding and interpreting the phenomena, also more recent ones, that affect and involve other cultural systems and artistic media.	
Soft skills		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Making informed judgments and choices</i> • literary analysis develops reflection and the line of thought since it requires attention, perspective viewing and knowledge of the linguistic-cultural system in question. • <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the literary texts selected from several national literatures offer the students the possibility of reflecting on the different cultural contexts. In such a way the students, assisted by a widened knowledge of different cultures, will be able to work out a more aware, correct and efficient communication, apart from obtaining contents that are useful for an activity like translating. • <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> • reading literary works taken from different cultures strengthens the students' ability to summarise and repropose contents by helping them create a line of thought and an argumentation as well as a supervised and efficient use of their language.
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Assessment and feedback	
Methods of assessment	Oral examination
Evaluation criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Knowledge and understanding</i> • The students' skills in adopting a correct lexicon and appropriate instruments for text analysis in the presentation of the works and the questions raised during the course will be taken into account in order to evaluate the level of <i>knowledge and understanding skills</i> • <i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i> • The students' skills in applying acquired knowledge to other historical/literary and cultural areas will be considered in order to evaluate the students' <i>applied knowledge and understanding skills</i>. • <i>Autonomy of judgment</i> • In order to evaluate the level of ability of <i>Making informed judgements and choices</i> the students' perspicacity regarding the use of methods and the formulation of a critique and interpretation will be considered. • <i>Communication (Communicating knowledge and understanding) skills</i> will be evaluated based on how the students reason about complex questions taking into account major contributions of literary criticism. • <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> will be evaluated by the students' analytical comprehension of the works and their collocation in their historical and cultural context. Furthermore, the students' ability to apply methodological instruments and acquired knowledge to phenomena and contexts beyond the course's contents will be considered.
Criteria for assessment and attribution of the final mark	For the assessment of the students' acquisition of skills specified in the evaluation criteria a thirty point system is applied.
Additional information	

