

Università degli Studi di Bari

Dipartimento di Lettere, Lingue Arti. Italianistica e Letterature Compare

Corso di Laurea: Traduzione Specialistica (LM94)

a.a. 2016-2017

Prof. ssa Alessandra Squeo

- A. – Elementi che consentono l'individuazione dell'insegnamento nell'ambito del corso di studi:

Programma di Cultura Inglese

Crediti attribuiti all'insegnamento: 8

Corso di Laurea Traduzione Specialistica

Semestre nel quale è svolto l'insegnamento: primo

- B. – Obiettivi e Contenuti del corso:

This course is intended to provide an up-to-date introduction to the development of English culture between the late fifteenth and the early sixteenth centuries, in its deep relationship with social, economic, religious and ethical issues. Particular topics addressed in the course will include the socio-cultural effects brought about by the development of a mercantile class, the moral and ethical issues underlying the debate on money-lending, and the rise of a new culture of 'risk' and 'hazard' associated to profit and income.

- C. Contenuti del corso:

'Profit', 'Risk' and 'Credit': the Cultural Practices of Economy in early modern England

After an introductory module that is designed to help students identify the manifold notion of culture within a broad scholarly debate, the course aims at exploring the multifaceted network of cultural, linguistic and ethical issues underlying the deep economic changes of early modern England.

Combining different theoretical and critical approaches, and largely following the methodology of new historicism and new economic criticism, the course focuses on the cultural background underlying the debate on money-lending and usury in early modern England, where the moral and legal justification of interest was a vital issue in the transition from feudal economy to modern capitalism and where the idea of 'risk' became increasingly associated to income.

In this perspective, selected parts of Thomas Wilson's *A Discourse Upon Usury*, Miles Mosse's *Arraignment Upon Usury* will be analyzed along with such a crucial text as Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* that offers distinctive possibilities of insight into a great variety of socio-cultural conflicts. Light will be shed on the pre-eminently linguistic nature of such conflicts investigating the polysemic status of such words as 'credit', 'obligation', 'bond', 'interest', 'good', that were still bearing a strong moral significance, and increasingly acquired an economic meaning under the socio-cultural constraints of an emerging capitalist system

- D. Organizzazione del corso: lezioni frontali e laboratori di discussioni sulle fonti primarie

E. – Bibliografia essenziale per lo studio della disciplina

Primary Sources

- Thomas Wilson, *A Discourse Upon Usury* (1576) (selected pages)
- Miles Mosse, *Arraignment and Conviction of Usurie* (1595) (selected pages)
- William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* (1596) (one of the following editions: New Cambridge, Oxford, Arden, Penguin)

Secondary Sources

1. Defining culture:

- Williams R., "The analysis of Culture" in John Storey (ed.), *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture. A Reader*, The University of Georgia Press, 1998, pp. 48-56.
- Spencer-Oatey H., "What is Culture? A Compilation of quotations", Global PAD Core Concepts, 2012, University of Warwick, available at https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/al/globalpad/openhouse/interculturalskills/global_pad_-_what_is_culture.pdf
- "Culture and Cognitive Science" (2011), Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, available at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/culture-cogsci/>
- "What is Culture?" University of Minnesota, Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition, available at <http://carla.umn.edu/culture/definitions.html>

2. The Cultural Practices of Economy in early modern England

text:

- Squeo A., *Shakespeare's Textual Traces. Patterns of Exchange in 'The Merchant of Venice'*, Edizioni dal Sud, Bari, 2012.

articles and essays:

- Lawrence S., "To give and to receive": Performing Exchanges in *The Merchant of Venice*" in P. Yachnin (ed.), *Shakespeare and the Culture of Performance*, Ashgate 1999, pp. 41-51.
- MacInnes I., "Ill Luck, Ill Luck? Risk and Hazard in *The Merchant of Venice*" in B. Sebek and S. Deng (eds.), *Global Traffic. Discourses of Trade in English Literature and Culture from 1550 to 1700*, Palgrave MacMillan 2008, pp. 39-55.
- Muldrew C., *The Economy of Obligation: The Culture of Credit and Social Relations in Early Modern England*, Early Modern History: Society and Culture, St. Martin's Press, New York 1998, pp. 123-195.
- Pettet C., "The Merchant of Venice and the Problem of Usury" (1945) in J. Wilders, *The Merchant of Venice. A Casebook*, MacMillan 1969.
- Ryan Kiernan, "Re-reading the Merchant of Venice", Martin Coyle (ed.), *The Merchant of Venice. New Casebook*, MacMillan 1998, pp. 36-44;
- Serpieri A., "Bonds of Love and Death in The Merchant of Venice" in M- Marrapodi-G. Melchiori (eds) *Italian Studies in Shakespeare and His Contemporaries*, pp. 44-56.
- Shapiro James, "Shakespeare and the Jews" in Martin Coyle (ed.), *The Merchant of Venice. New Casebook*, MacMillan 1998, pp. 73-91.
- Shell M., "The Wether and Ewe. Verbal Usury in *the Merchant of Venice*" in Money, Language and Thought. Literary and Philosophical Economics from the Medieval to the Modern Age, John Hopkins University Press 1994.

F. – Notizie su eventuali prove intermedie ed esonerative.

Modalità di svolgimento dell'esame finale: l'esame orale, che si svolge in lingua inglese, prevede l'analisi e la discussione delle fonti primarie, alla luce della bibliografia critica di riferimento.

Il calendario degli esami è pubblicato nelle bacheche del Dipartimento e reso disponibile sul sito del Dipartimento

G. – Gli orari di ricevimento sono disponibili sulla pagina del docente nel sito del dipartimento.

H. – E-mail del docente: alessandra.squeo@uniba.it

I – Note a cura del docente: gli studenti non frequentanti sono invitati a concordare il programma con il docente.