



ERASMUS+ INCOMING STUDENTS COURSE CATALOGUE

Department of Italian Language and Literature

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General information		
Course instructor	Elvio Baccharini, Ph.D. / Filip Čeč	
Name of the course	Filosofia della letteratura	
Study programme	Undergraduate study programme in Italian Language and Literature	
Status of the course	Compulsory	
Year of study	3 rd	
ECTS credits and manner of instruction	ECTS credits	3
	Number of class hours (Lectures + Exercises + Seminars)	15+0+15

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1. Course objectives

- The primary objective is to familiarize students with the issues relating to the definition of the concept of literature and the main positions arising out of the discussion relative to the issues in question. Furthermore, students will become acquainted with theories pertaining to the evaluation of literature (What is the value of literature? What human virtues are built through literature? Of what does the pleasure derived from a literary work consist?) and particular literary works, and will be able to evaluate literature and certain pieces of literature. Students will be able to apply cognitive theories to particular works of literature, thus adopting a critical approach to the evaluation of cognitive assumptions.

1.2. Course enrolment requirements and entry competences required for the course

- No requirements.

1.3. Expected course learning outcomes

- By the end of the course, students will be able to:
 - describe and summarize course content
 - identify and describe the differences in defining literature
 - identify and describe the differences in the evaluation of literature's value and certain works

of art

- understand issues and meaning, as well as the solution to the question of emotion-art relation, and the following question: “How is it possible that fiction can stir up authentic emotions, such as fear, worries, compassion, etc.?”
- develop some of the skills necessary for the evaluation a literary work.

1.4. Course content

1. The first part of the course is devoted to the discussion on the definition of literature. What will be presented first is the theory that advocates the impossibility of defining the literature (Weitz's anti-essentialist proposal). Afterwards, the course will focus on the main theories that seek to offer the definition of literature: functional, procedural, historical and institutional theory.

2. The second part of the course is dedicated to various theories dealing with the evaluation of literature's value. These are as follows: the theory of pleasure (the value of literature lies in the fact that it provides pleasure); expressivist theory (literature is valuable because it conveys emotions); cognitivist theory (the value of literature lies in the fact that it provides us with new insights).

3. The third part of the course will analyse the methods of applying cognitive theories to different literary genres.

4. What will be discussed in the fourth part is the question of literature and emotion, and in particular the issue arising in relation to the fact that fiction provokes authentic emotions such as fear, compassion, etc.

1.5. Manner of instruction

- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Seminars and workshops