The Literature of United Italy (MLI1020)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>MODULE CODE</th>
<th>MLI1020</th>
<th>MODULE LEVEL</th>
<th>1</th>
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**MODULE TITLE**
The literature of united Italy

**LECTURER(S)**
Dr Luciano Parisi

**CREDIT VALUE**
15

**ECTS VALUE**
7.5

**PRE-REQUISITES**
None

**CO-REQUISITES**
None

**DURATION OF MODULE**
1 semester (second semester in 2010/11)

**TOTAL STUDENT STUDY TIME**
150 hours, including 10 lectures and 5 seminars

**AIMS**
The aim of this module is to give first year students (both beginners and post-A level) a clear starting point in their approach to modern and contemporary Italian culture. We will briefly examine the historical events of 1860-61 - when regional states disappeared to make room for a single national state - and of the five following decades. We will also consider the practical culture of Italians in that period. We will mainly focus on the role that literature and memory of the past played in the formation of a national consciousness, and read some key texts published in that period - by authors who supported the new state, and by at least one who strongly objected to it. Students will thus gain an insight into some of the issues, which most persistently dominated the Italian intellectual life in the second half of the 19th century. Students will be able to pursue personal interests by selecting their reading list from a range of possible options.

**INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (ILO's)**

*On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:*

**Module Specific Skills:**

1. demonstrate familiarity with the historical events that led to Italian unification, and with the conditions of life in the newly formed national state

2. understand the role played by literature in the difficult creation of a national consciousness

3. show a good knowledge of the set texts, and relate them to their historical context

4. have a wider knowledge of Italian literature in the period 1860-1914.

**Discipline Specific Skills:**

5. access and use appropriate learning resources following initial guidance from the lecturer
6. read, analyse, compare and contextualise key texts, both historical and literary
7. evaluate, under guidance from the lecturer, key critical responses to the main topics
8. mount an argument in sound written English using basic textual or other evidence

**Personal and Key Skills:**
9. undertake structured learning activities with guidance from the lecturer
10. explain and discuss personal conclusions with other members of a group
11. assimilate, select and organise material in order to produce, to a deadline, an oral or written argument

**LEARNING/TEACHING METHODS**

**Details of Learning and Teaching Methods:**
Lectures and seminars - all involving class discussions and text analyses.

**ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formative or % Contribution</th>
<th>Form of Assessment:</th>
<th>Size of the assessment e.g. duration/length</th>
<th>ILO’s assessed by this assessment:</th>
<th>Feedback method:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Formative</td>
<td>Short commentary</td>
<td>500 words</td>
<td>1-11</td>
<td>Written comments</td>
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<td>Formative</td>
<td>Seminar presentations</td>
<td>15 minutes approx</td>
<td>1-11</td>
<td>Oral comments</td>
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<td>Essay (when taught in semester I)</td>
<td>2000 words</td>
<td>1-11</td>
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<td>Exam (when taught in semester II)</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>1-11</td>
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**SYLLABUS PLAN**

- Week I: Nineteenth-century Italy. How to make a good presentation; how to write a good literary essay: advice and suggestions
- Week II: The historical novel in Europe and in Italy
- Week III: A patriot's project. *Le confessioni di un italiano*
- Week IV: Carlo e Pisana. The fall of Venice in Ippolito Nievo's *Le confessioni di un italiano*
- Week V: The South of Italy, Verga
- Week VII: Interpreting *I Malavoglia*
- Week VIII: The role of children literature in unified Italy
- Week IX: Carlo Collodi's *Pinocchio*
- Week X: Women writers at the turn of the century
- Week XI: Sibilla Aleramo's *Una donna*

## INDICATIVE LEARNING RESOURCES

*Indicative basic reading list:

### Set texts

#### BEGINNERS, OPTION A

**Three of the four** following texts:


#### BEGINNERS, OPTION B

**Two** texts:

1. Ippolito Nievo, *The Castle of Fratta*

2. **one** of the other novels listed in option A

#### POST A-LEVEL, OPTION A

**Three of the four** following texts:

1. Sibilla Aleramo, *Una donna* (any edition)


#### POST A-LEVEL, OPTION B

**Two** texts:

1. Ippolito Nievo, *Le confessioni di un italiano* (any unabridged edition)
2. one of the other novels listed in option A

Recommended texts

The historical context


The literary context

- Peter Brand, Lino Pertile (eds), *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)

Nievo


Collodi


Verga


Aleramo
• Ursula Fanning, ‘Sibilla Aleramo's *Una donna*: A Case Study in Women's Autobiographical Fiction', *The Italianist* 19 (1999), pp. 164-77

**Indicative web based resources e.g. Webct:**

A wide selection of course material is available on WebCT

*Le confessioni di un italiano:*


*Pinocchio:*

  - [http://www.crs4.it/Letteratura/Pinocchio/Pinocchio.html](http://www.crs4.it/Letteratura/Pinocchio/Pinocchio.html)

*I Malavoglia:*


Additional links:

  - [http://www.unige.it/centrint/Media/amedia036.html](http://www.unige.it/centrint/Media/amedia036.html)

**Other resources:**

| DATE OF LAST REVISION | March 16, 2010 |