

Name	THE GOLDEN AGE OF PETRARCH AND BOCCACCIO (5 ECTS)
Code	ITU33271
Semester	SEMESTER 2
ECTS credits	5
Pre-requisite	
Coordinator	

Module Content

In his lyrical poems collected under the title of *Rerum vulgarium fragmenta* [Fragments of Vernacular Things] or *Canzoniere*, Petrarch provides an exemplary account of his tormented passion for Laura and his love for poetry, which will exercise immense influence on the Western World in the centuries to come. Boccaccio is one of the greatest writers of Western literary tradition and among the most prolific authors of Italian literature. Today he is renowned for his narrative masterwork, the *Decameron*, a collection of one hundred novellas which aimed to portray the late medieval-early modern world as it was. Boccaccio's narrative style is a milestone on the way to the creation of Western realism.

This module aims:

- to build foundational critical skills in interpreting medieval texts;
- to build an understanding of how to analyze and write about medieval literature therefore to provide the basis for students to be able to continue to work with poetry and prose in final year.
- to introduce students to medieval culture through the close reading of the *Canzoniere* and the *Decameron*.
- to encourage students, through their assessment, to become reflective and critical researchers.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will have:

- familiarized with the language and style of Boccaccio, the inventor of Italian literary prose, and of the lyrical poems of Petrarch.
- be able to critically analyse key aspects of a novella by Boccaccio and poems of Petrarch;
- be able to write about a corpus of texts to the level expected in JS;
- have developed knowledge of the novelistic genre, one of the most thriving in the Italian vernacular.

Assessment

- 70% coursework essay
- 30% oral presentation



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