

Course Description of the Bachelor's Degree in Humanities - University of Pisa

(«Scheda unica annuale», year 2025 – Presentation of the Course; Section A. Training objectives)

Presentation of the Course

The Bachelor's Degree in Humanities aims to train graduates with a basic knowledge of the humanities from antiquity to the present day, seeking to combine a solid practical knowledge (oral and written) of the national language with the field of contemporary European culture.

A solid methodological and historical foundation in the humanities, with direct knowledge of sources and the ability to read original texts, as demonstrated by numerous international experiences, forms the basis on which new professional skills can be developed. Humanities studies are interpreted according to the cultural and professional needs of our time and enriched both by the study of the multiplicity of contemporary cultures, European and non-European, and by the acquisition of the main IT and telematic tools.

Particular attention is paid to the practice of spoken and written Italian, so as to provide writing and communication skills that can be assessed by public and private bodies and individuals as an important basis for professionalism in today's society. New opportunities for professional engagement are also favoured by the growing interest in Italian in the context of global communication and information.

The course lasts three years and is divided into two curricula: Ancient and Modern. It is characterised by a unified structure, with teaching organised into semester-long and year-long monographic courses, seminars, exercises and workshops.

The course aims to provide the disciplinary skills necessary to access various master's degrees in the humanities for subsequent specialist training in the field of teaching humanities subjects at all school levels. The three-year degree also allows access to all public competitions that require this qualification. In addition, the broad humanities education, which also aims to improve interpersonal skills, and a specific curriculum covering a wide variety of written and oral texts, together provide the most solid foundation and the necessary versatility for writing and communication activities relevant to the fields of oral and written information, publishing, advertising and, more generally, within public and private entities interested in positive public relations.

Link: <http://www.fileli.unipi.it/lettere/> (Degree programme webpage)

Table A1.a. Consultation with organisations representing - at national and international level - the production of goods and services, the professions (establishment of the course)

The University of Pisa is currently undergoing a profound evolution, triggered by the publication of Ministerial Decree 270/04, focused on innovative processes of autonomy, responsibility and quality. The implementation of these processes, however, also depends on the possibility of achieving more effective integration between universities and the productive apparatus. Educational autonomy is moving towards a number of systemic objectives: reducing and rationalising the number of degree courses and examinations; improving the quality and transparency of the courses on offer; improving the relationship between planning and analysis of the demand for knowledge and skills expressed by the main players in the labour market, as a fundamental element for the quality and effectiveness of the activities required of the university.

The committees were asked to express their opinion on the teaching structure of the Humanities degree programme.

The fact that the University of Pisa has prioritised basic training in the three-year programme, moving numerous specialist subjects to the second level of master's degrees, designed to meet certain specific professional requirements for certain sectors, was viewed positively. It was emphasised that, in addition to the focus on basic training, the flexibility of the curriculum and the autonomy and specificity of the university, which in this context demonstrates all its areas of excellence, are positive factors.

In anticipation of the annual review, the course will carry out new consultations with the most representative organisations in the sector of interest in order to verify and evaluate the measures aimed at improving the course itself.

Table A1.b. Consultation with organisations representing - at national and international level - the production of goods and services, the professions (subsequent consultations)

The President of the CdS and the QA representative, Prof. Alessandro Fambrini, are responsible for relations with external parties within the Council.

As a result of frequent consultations held in recent years with representatives of the local business community, particularly in the publishing sector, Dr Alessandra Borghini (ETS publishing house, Pisa) to the Council's QA group, which was responsible for drafting the 2024 cyclical review report and oversees all review and self-assessment activities.

In the context of relations with local businesses, we would like to highlight in particular a number of internships carried out by students of the degree programme at the Pisa Book Festival Association and the company Editoriale Nazionale SRL (2024), as well as within the framework of the "Le mille e una rete" project. The very positive outcome of these experiences is evidenced by the evaluation forms completed by these companies and associations, which testify to the high capacity of CdS students to integrate profitably into the productive fabric of the local area.

Table A2.a. Professional profile and expected employment and career opportunities for graduates

- Expert in literature and linguistics
 - Role in a work context:
 - Drafting texts in Italian and foreign languages, literary translation from ancient and modern languages, support for publishing activities.
 - Skills associated with the role:
 - Fluent command of Italian (written and spoken) and knowledge, both theoretical and practical, of the fundamentals of linguistics.
 - In-depth knowledge, including at a comparative level, of European and non-European cultures and literatures.
 - Written and spoken command of one or two European Union languages.
 - Experience in methods of analysing both modern and ancient literary texts.
 - Career opportunities:
 - Employment in public and private offices, where a three-year degree in Literature offers the ability to interact with the public and local communities, thanks to the linguistic, cultural and communication skills acquired.
 - Continuation and further study by enrolling in Master's Degree programmes in the field of Literature and Philology (ancient and modern).
- Communication expert
 - Role in a work context:
 - Functions related to the publishing industry, production and cultural communication:
 - Public relations officer on behalf of foundations and public and private bodies
 - Cooperation in the organisation of exhibitions, events and conferences
 - Drafting of texts in Italian and foreign languages
 - Translation of documents and literary texts
 - Skills associated with the role:
 - Knowledge of different cultures at both an artistic and historical-literary level; ability to write texts in Italian; coordination and mediation skills; experience with different linguistic registers; knowledge of one or more foreign languages.
 - Career opportunities:
 - The expected career opportunities consist of various positions in the press offices of public administrations and local authorities. Event organisation.
- Expert in publishing and editorial processes.
 - Role in a work context:
 - Functions related to journalism and other media.
 - Collaborator in advertising activities at various levels.
 - Organisation of web blogs.
 - Bibliographic consulting.
 - Proofreading and editing.
 - Skills associated with the role:
 - Knowledge of media, knowledge of one or more languages, knowledge of IT tools.
 - Career opportunities:

- Activities at various levels of responsibility at press agencies and local newspaper offices.
- Expert in international relations
 - Role in a work context:
 - Functions related to international cooperation organisations, such as:
 - Italian language courses for foreigners;
 - coordination of intercultural exchanges, events and campaigns.
 - Skills associated with the role:
 - Full practical and theoretical command of the Italian language, knowledge of the culture and traditions of European and non-European countries, experience in cultural mediation processes.
 - Career opportunities:
 - Operators in organisations responsible for cooperation and intercultural dissemination.

Table A3a. Knowledge required for admission.

The fundamental skills and knowledge required for good or optimal admission to the degree course in Literature can be acquired at secondary school, specifically:

- mastery of the Italian language and ability to write in Italian;
- general knowledge and basic humanities education.

The above knowledge is assessed through an evaluation test consisting of a series of multiple-choice questions, text comprehension and a short text interpretation. The test is taken before the start of the courses and a second time for students who enrol later. The test does not preclude enrolment, but all students are required to take it.

Students who do not pass the minimum threshold set by the test will have to fulfil Additional Educational Requirements (OFA - Obblighi Formativi Aggiuntivi), as detailed in the Course Regulations.

Table A3b. Admission requirements

The fundamental skills and knowledge required for successful admission to the degree programme in Literature can be acquired at secondary school level and include:

- full command of spoken and written Italian,
- adequate knowledge of the morphological and syntactical elements necessary for the study of Latin,
- general knowledge and basic humanistic education.

An initial assessment test (TOLC-SU) is required to assess the student's knowledge upon entry, with the aim of verifying the student's preparation and establishing the need for any additional educational requirements (OFA).

Those who obtain an overall test score of less than 22 out of 30 will be required to complete the OFA (Additional Training Requirements) through two courses, "Text Comprehension" and "Latin Zero", each lasting 36 hours, which are regularly offered within the Department of Philology, Literature and Linguistics or offered online by the University. In order to fulfil the additional training requirement, students must attend at least 80% of the hours taught and pass the respective final exams.

If the OFA is not completed, the student will not be able to take the second and third year exams.

In the event of failure to complete the OFA, students will not be able to take the second and third year examinations.

All students who intend to enrol in the Bachelor's Degree programme in Literature must take the entrance assessment test. The test must also be taken in the case of transfers from another university or from another degree programme at the University of Pisa. For students who have taken the test after the calendar year of enrolment, it may be validated by the degree programme if taken in the same manner and with the same content.

Table A4.a. Specific educational objectives of the course and description of the educational path

The course includes a curriculum dedicated to ancient literature and one dedicated to modern literature.

The first involves in-depth study of subjects related to Greek and Latin language and literature (classical path) and to the literary and cultural expressions of the ancient Near East (oriental path). The second involves in-depth study of subjects related to Italian language and literature (modern track) and European languages and literature (comparative track).

Over the three-year period, in addition to acquiring knowledge of a variety of disciplines, students also gain in-depth knowledge of fundamental disciplines, depending on their curriculum, which enable them to complete their three-year educational profile.

The Bachelor's Degree in Humanities aims to provide basic knowledge in the study of humanities disciplines from antiquity to the present day, while also seeking to combine solid practical knowledge (oral and written) of the national language with the field of contemporary European culture.

Specifically, the degree programme is structured into two curricula.

As this is a methodological degree programme, graduates with a three-year degree naturally go on to pursue their studies in order to obtain a master's degree.

Nevertheless, the three-year degree programme provides, to a large extent, the basic disciplinary skills necessary to access specialist training in the field of teaching the so-called humanities at all school levels.

In addition, the three-year degree can be used to gain access to public competitions that require it as an essential requirement.

Objectives of the two curricula:

- the acquisition of basic knowledge in the historical, artistic-archaeological, geographical and philosophical fields, with the ability to read original texts and documents, accompanied by the development of critical and hermeneutic skills, based on the acquisition of the theoretical and methodological tools specific to the various disciplines;
- the acquisition of specific knowledge in the field of ancient and modern literature from Italy, Europe and beyond, with the ability to use the relevant tools and methods and the ability to read, in the original language, literary texts relevant to individual traditions;
- the acquisition, depending on the curricular options, of a solid knowledge of either the Greek and Latin languages common to the entire European tradition or the Neo-Latin linguistic varieties of the medieval and Renaissance Italian area and modern and contemporary Italian or, finally, the ancient, medieval and modern languages of Europe (Indo-European area) and Eurasia and Africa;
- the acquisition of basic philological training, based on knowledge of the history of philology and its specific methods and tools, in order to critically approach the reading and analysis of literary texts and documents in classical languages, in the Neo-Latin varieties of the Italian area, in the ancient and modern languages of Europe (Indo-European area) and, finally, other ancient and modern languages of Eurasia and Africa;
- the acquisition of basic historical and theoretical linguistic knowledge, with particular reference to models of synchronic analysis of language and natural languages and to the diachronic mechanisms of linguistic evolution.

For professional purposes, the following areas of learning have been identified:

Italian studies and medieval and modern philology for journalism, editing and the preparation of cultural events and exhibitions Classical literature and philology for translation, editing and the organisation of exhibitions and cultural events

Comparative studies for translation, editing and intercultural dissemination Oriental studies for archaeological and museum activities

Linguistics for the compilation and revision of grammars (also aimed at teaching Italian to foreigners), dictionaries, linguistic and lexicographical repertoires. Editorial revision and proofreading.

Table A4.b.1. Knowledge and understanding, and ability to apply knowledge and understanding: summary

Knowledge and understanding

Those who have completed the three-year degree course in literature have acquired complete mastery of the Italian language at both a communicative and scientific level, and have acquired specific skills in the history of literature (which vary depending on the chosen curriculum, but always include Italian literature). They are fully capable of critically analysing a literary text. Through individual study and active participation in courses and seminars, they are able to reconstruct the stages that led to the text we read today. They have acquired full mastery in reading and analysing texts from all phases of national literature (from European origins to the contemporary international age) independently and have acquired, including through compulsory language courses, the ability to understand and analyse texts in at least one foreign language. They are able to analyse the history of language (Greek, Latin, Italian, in different combinations depending on the chosen path: Latin, Greek and Italian in the ancient path; Latin and Italian in the modern path) and measure its impact on the reading of texts. They have acquired solid historical skills in the analysis of texts, which they are able to place in time and space. All these skills are acquired through: course attendance, participation in seminar activities, where applicable, individual preparation, mid-term tests and other activities.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

Graduates in Humanities are called upon in many circumstances to apply the knowledge and skills they acquire through attending courses and seminars. Some courses require students to produce reports and seminar presentations in front of the class, and involve independent thinking and original scientific research, which culminate in the writing of a final dissertation. Mid-term assessments, seminars and the final exam are the many occasions on which students must demonstrate their ability to process and report on the knowledge acquired through the teaching materials provided in the exam programmes (textbooks and course materials), the enrichment produced by the specific monographic topic and by applying this knowledge to the independent analysis of texts and related literature.

Table A4.b.2. Knowledge and understanding, and ability to apply knowledge and understanding: detail

I. Italian Studies and Medieval and Modern Philology

Knowledge and understanding:

- Full command of the Italian language in both communicative and purely artistic-literary forms.

- In-depth knowledge of Italian literature from its origins to the present day, enabling full understanding of both ancient and modern Italian literary texts.
- Acquisition of basic philological and methodological-critical tools to be applied to texts from our literary tradition.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:

- Ability to process documents and texts in Italian.
- Ability to critically analyse both ancient and modern literary texts.
- Ability to process one's own linguistic and cultural knowledge in an original way in order to refine one's competence in oral and written communication in different work contexts (media, human resources, public relations, presentations, etc.).

Knowledge and skills are acquired and assessed in the following courses:

- 142LL Armenian Philology 6 credits
- 144LL Celtic Philology 6 credits
- 145LL Classical Philology 4 credits
- 146LL Germanic Philology 6 credits
- 148LL Italian Philology 6 credits
- 149LL Medieval and Humanistic Philology 6 credits
- 150LL Romance Philology 6 CFU
- 1279L Romance Philology II 6 CFU
- 537LL Slavic Philology 6 CFU
- 164LL Contemporary Italian Literature 12 CFU
- 165LL Italian Literature I 12 CFU
- 166LL Italian Literature II 12 CFU
- 1247Z Written Italian Workshop 6 CFU

II. Classical literature and philology

Knowledge and understanding:

- Knowledge of Greek and Latin, including their historical development.
- Understanding and interpretation of texts relating to Greek and Roman civilisations.
- In-depth knowledge of Greek and Latin literature with critical analysis and translation skills.
- Acquisition of the philological tools necessary for editing ancient texts.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:

- Ability to translate from Greek and Latin.
- Ability to collect, select and illustrate texts and documents relating to knowledge of the classical world and its dissemination through exhibitions, catalogues and bibliographies.
- Editing of classical texts.
- Ability to rework the acquired cultural heritage in the modern world, with a view to greater confidence in presentation and knowledge.

Knowledge and skills are acquired and assessed in the following training activities:

- 1449L Greek Zero Workshop 6 CFU
- 2370Z Institutions of Latin Language 6 CFU
- 174LL Greek Language and Literature I 12 CFU

- 175LL Greek Language and Literature II 12 CFU
- 176LL Greek Language and Literature III 6 CFU
- 178LL Latin Language and Literature I 12 CFU
- 179LL Latin Language and Literature II 12 CFU
- 181LL Latin Language and Literature III 6 CFU

III. Comparative area

Knowledge and understanding:

- Good command and knowledge of at least one language and its modern foreign literature.
- Understanding of related modern and ancient texts.
- Acquisition of the main critical and methodological tools needed to conduct various types of cultural analysis with a view to in-depth comparative analysis in theory and practice.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:

- Ability to translate documents and texts from foreign literature into Italian.
- Ability to select, collect and illustrate material for exhibitions and cultural events aimed at promoting European cultures and literatures.
- Ability to make a solid comparison between different literary cultures for professional purposes, at a specialist level.

Knowledge and skills are acquired and assessed in the following training activities:

- 982LL French Language 9 CFU
- 983LL English Language 9 CFU
- 984LL Polish Language 9 CFU
- 985LL Portuguese Language 9 CFU
- 1322L Romanian Language 1 9 CFU
- 986LL Russian Language 9 CFU
- 987LL Spanish Language 9 CFU
- 988LL German Language 9 CFU
- 973LL French Literature 9 CFU
- 974LL English Literature 9 CFU
- 975LL Polish Literature 9 CFU
- 976LL Portuguese Literature 9 CFU
- 977LL Romanian Literature 1 9 CFU
- 978LL Russian Literature 9 CFU
- 979LL Spanish Literature 9 CFU
- 980LL German Literature 9 CFU
- 199LL Literary Theory 12 CFU
- 981LL Comparative Literature 12 CFU
- 992LL History and Techniques of Literary Criticism 12 CFU

IV. Linguistic area

Knowledge and understanding:

- Acquisition of the cognitive principles underlying the organisation, change and learning of linguistic systems.
- Complete knowledge of the phonological, morphological, syntactic and pragmatic processes of the Italian language.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:

- Ability to teach the fundamentals of the Italian language to foreigners.
- Ability to analyse literary and non-literary texts linguistically.
- Professional knowledge of Italian dialects.
- Knowledge of editing and proofreading techniques.

Knowledge and skills are acquired and assessed through the following training activities:

- 153LL Linguistics 12 CFU
- 1231L Lithuanian Language and Culture 6 CFU
- 944LL General Linguistics 12 CFU
- 1247Z Written Italian Workshop 6 CFU
- 191LL History of the Italian Language A 6 CFU
- 192LL History of the Italian Language B 6 CFU

V. Oriental Studies Area

Knowledge and understanding:

- Knowledge of the languages and cultures of the ancient Near East and understanding of related texts and documents.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:

- Ability to collect, select and illustrate material for exhibitions and events related to the cultures of the ancient Near East and the Arabian Peninsula.
- Management, cataloguing and planning of related museum and archaeological material, with the ability to disseminate and compare with Western cultures.

Knowledge and skills are acquired and assessed in the following training activities:

- 135LL Archaeology and History of the Arabian Peninsula 6 CFU
- 278LL Egyptology 6 CFU
- 142LL Armenian Philology 6 CFU
- 259LL Hebrew Language 6 CFU
- 1450L Ancient Egyptian Language 6 CFU
- 298LL Sanskrit 6 CFU
- 260LL History of the Ancient Near East 12 CFU
- 1250Z Papyrology Laboratory 6 CFU

Table A4.c. Independent thinking - Communication skills - Learning ability

Independent thinking

Through course attendance, individual exam preparation and final exam preparation, as well as individual study of the materials indicated in the course programmes, graduates in Humanities acquire

the ability to independently determine, evaluate and elaborate on the critical aspects of knowledge and methodologies and their cultural, social and ethical impact.

Communication skills

Graduates in Humanities must be able to communicate with other specialists in the historical-philological-literary field, in order to interact and cooperate with them; they must also be able to communicate the characteristics and peculiarities of the disciplines they have studied to non-specialists.

During the course of study, the final assessment of the subjects (exams) is a tool for elaborating and communicating the work carried out, while seminars and exercises, where applicable, provide an opportunity to refine the ability to address others with appropriate language and clarity of expression. A further opportunity for in-depth study and assessment of the ability to analyse, process and communicate the work carried out is provided by the final exam (“tesina”), which, in the presence of a commission, involves the discussion of a paper, not necessarily original, on a subject area covered in the course of study. Finally, participation in short internships or work placements at companies (e.g. newspaper offices, publishing houses, etc.) or cultural institutions (e.g. museums, libraries, etc.) and study abroad programmes are further opportunities for developing communication skills.

Learning ability

The methodological rigour of the basic teaching approach, the structure of the exams and the preparation for the final exam should lead students to develop an aptitude for reasoning which, anchored in solid scientific and methodological foundations, is aimed at finding appropriate solutions to various problems. The solid preparation of graduates in Humanities, acquired through attendance and participation in course activities, passing the required examinations and the final exam, establishes and enhances a learning ability that is also valid for further studies (master's degree, first-level university master's degrees).

Table A4.c. Brief description of related and supplementary activities

The group of related and supplementary activities requires the attainment of a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 36 credits. Some of the activities that contribute to the achievement of the specific educational objectives of the course relate to Scientific Disciplinary Sectors that are also present among the basic and characterising SSDs. The related and complementary activities, as set out in the teaching regulations of the degree course, are designed to offer students the opportunity to integrate the knowledge required by the two proposed curricula: the Ancient Curriculum, divided into Basic and Orientalist paths, and the Modern Curriculum, with Basic and Comparative paths.

In the Ancient Curriculum, the Basic Path requires the completion of Greek Language and Literature and Latin Language and Literature, as well as elective exams in Celtic Philology, Germanic Philology, Romance Philology, Medieval and Humanistic Philology, History of the Italian Language A. The Oriental Studies track includes exams in Egyptology or Indology, and elective exams in Archaeology and History of the Arabian Peninsula, Armenian Philology, Semitic Philology, Hebrew Language, and Hebrew Literature.

In the modern curriculum, the Basic course requires completion of Italian Literature, Latin Language and Literature, and History and Techniques of Literary Criticism, as well as elective exams in Lithuanian Language and Culture, Aesthetics, Institutions of Ancient Philosophy, Institutions of Modern Philosophy, Institutions of Contemporary Art History, Institutions of Medieval Art History in Italy and Europe, Institutions of Modern Art History in Italy and Europe, Germanic Philology, Romance Philology II, Slavic Philology, Classical Texts of Ancient Philosophy, and History of Music. The Comparative track requires exams in Comparative Literature, History and Techniques of Literary Criticism, Literary Theory, Lithuanian Language and Culture, Germanic Philology, Romance Philology, Slavic Philology, and History of Music.

Table A5.a. Final examination requirements

In accordance with the requirements of the degree programme in Humanities, the final examination consists of the written preparation of a dissertation, prepared within a disciplinary or interdisciplinary field expressly provided for in the study plan and under the guidance of a professor in the field.

The exam will correspond to one of the following types:

- essay on an ancient, medieval or modern text;
- essay on a topic or issue related to the disciplinary areas of the chosen curriculum;
- commentary on an ancient, medieval or modern text or document;
- review of a book or bibliographic review.

Table A5.b. Final examination procedure

The final examination consists of two distinct parts:

- discussion of the thesis;
- announcement or awarding of the degree.

The discussion, to which students may be admitted after obtaining 174 credits, takes place in the presence of a committee composed of three lecturers, one of whom will be the supervisor. The purpose of the discussion is to evaluate the final thesis, the student's general preparation and the critical maturity achieved by the student at the end of the degree course.

The degree mark, expressed in hundredths with honours, is determined on the basis of the weighted average of the exams taken with marks in relation to credits: the mark with honours will contribute with a weighting of 31. The discussion of the final thesis is assessed with a mark (sufficient/fair/good/distinguished/excellent). The result of the final exam is added to the candidate's overall average, expressed out of 110, according to the assessment given, based on the following table:

Satisfactory = 1, Fair = 2, Good = 3, Distinct = 4, Excellent = 5, Outstanding = 6.

The committee may unanimously award an additional point based on 1) compliance with the deadlines set out in the Degree Programme Regulations and/or 2) assessment of the student's academic career and/or 3) periods spent abroad as part of international mobility programmes.

If the degree mark reaches or exceeds 110 points, the committee has the right to award, by unanimous decision, the distinction of honours.

The degree is awarded at a later date, before a committee composed in accordance with the University's Teaching Regulations, which proceeds with the proclamation and assignment of the final mark out of 110.