

## Course Description

### Course Unit

#### Great Questions in Modern Literatures

### UC Code

MOD8.921661

### ECTS Credits

12 ECTS

### Work Hours

336H (12 ECTS)

### Level

PHD

### Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S2

### Faculty

Chiara Nifosi

### Class

TP 1

### Language of instruction

English

### Class Description

The present course revolves around Charles Baudelaire and his legacy in the immediate aftermath of his life as well as for the development of lyric poetry in the 20th-century. Through the in-depth analysis of his two collections, *Les Fleurs du Mal* and *Le Spleen de Paris*, we will navigate the complex landscape of the European lyric in the post-romantic era and tackle the formation of a modern poetic consciousness. During the semester, we will also consider Baudelaire's prose production, namely the *Salons*, *De l'essence du rire*, and *Les Paradis artificiels* (among others). These texts in particular will constitute the ideal springboard for a comprehensive assessment of Baudelaire's influence on the evolution of taste and sensibility in such fields as art and music criticism, social and

anthropological analysis. This aspect of Baudelaire's relevance for 20th-century history of thought will also be analyzed through additional readings for doctoral students. Among these, there will be texts by Walter Benjamin, Jean-Paul Sartre, Paul de Man, and Georges Poulet.

### ***Grading and Assessment***

Students will be graded based on the following components: course attendance and participation in the class discussion; oral presentations in class on additional readings (all mandatory for doctoral students); final argumentative paper. The exact grade breakdown will be available in the finalized syllabus.

### ***Bibliography***

Benjamin, Walter. *The Writer of Modern Life: Essays on Charles Baudelaire*. Cambridge MA, London: Belknap Press, 2006.

Berman, Marshall. *All That Is Solid Melts into Air: The Experience of Modernity*. New York and London: Penguin, 1988.

Calinescu, Matei. *Five Faces of Modernity. Modernism, Avant-Garde, Decadence, Kitsch, Postmodernism*. Durham: Duke UP, 1987.

Deguy, Michel. *La Pietà Baudelaire*. Paris: Belin, 2012.

Fondane, Benjamin. *Baudelaire et l'expérience du gouffre*. Paris: Seghers, 1947.

Gilman, Margaret. *Baudelaire the Critic*. New York: Columbia UP, 1943.

Locatelli, Federica. *Une figure de l'expansion. La périphrase chez Baudelaire*. Bern: Peter Lang, 2015.

King, Russell, et al. *Reconceptions: Reading Modern French Poetry*. The University of Nottingham, 1996.

Starobinski, Jean. *La Mélancolie au miroir: trois lectures de Baudelaire*. Paris: Julliard, 1989.

Whidden, Seth. *Reading Baudelaire's Le Spleen de Paris and the Nineteenth-Century Prose Poem*. Oxford: OUP, 2022.

### ***Prerequisites (if applicable)***

Course taught in English. Reading skills and oral/written proficiency in the language are necessary.