



WL 325 - Contemporary Italian Literature

Semester, meeting time, days and location : 11-13 am.

Faculty: Domenico Palumbo

Office hours: Tuesday, 1:00-2:00 pm or by appointment

TEXTS AND REQUIRED READINGS:

- Material provided by the professor

TEACHING TOOLS:

In addition to lectures, held by the teacher, audiovisual tools will be used to support the teaching. Scholars will also be invited to bring a significant contribution to increase the issues upon which the course focuses.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- To master the traditionally defined Italian literary canon.
- To learn concepts and theories in the subject of Italian Literary Studies.
- To develop skills in the interpretation and analysis of Italian literature, as well as to develop the critical-thinking skills necessary to provide a creative interpretation of the text.
- To improve reading and writing skills in Italian.
- To master bibliographical research skills.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will study Italian literature of the Twentieth Century. Students will critically analyze the internationally renowned literary texts in their original language. Course's focus is to give a general overview of literary developments during the 20th century and to deepen the relationships of literature with different forms of power. Students will read pages of the works selected in Italian and they will be able to debate on them in classroom. They will try to understand the role of literature in the contemporary world and its value in the human life.

DIVISION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Intro	Che cos'è letteratura. <u>U.Eco</u> : L'importanza di leggere. da <i>La bustina di Minerva</i> .
Unit 1	Letteratura e società. <u>Marinetti</u> : <i>Il Manifesto del futurismo. Zang tuung tumb.</i> <u>Palazzeschi</u> : <i>Chi sono?; E lasciatemi divertire!</i>
Unit 2	Letteratura e verità. <u>Pirandello</u> : <i>Uno, nessuno e centomila</i> . Capitolo 1; capitolo 8; finale <u>Pirandello</u> : <i>Il fu Mattia Pascal</i> . Premessa; capitolo 8 (Adriano Meis). Capitolo 18. Finale. <u>Montale</u> : <i>Spesso il male di vivere ho incontrato. Non chiederci la parola.</i>
Unit 3	Letteratura e valori. <u>Primo Levi</u> . <i>Se questo è un uomo</i> . Poesia. Cap: 2; 9; 17. Finale.
Unit 4	Poeti tra le guerre. <u>Ungaretti</u> : <i>Soldati. Mattina. Non gridate più</i> <u>Quasimodo</u> : <i>Ed è subito sera. Alle fronde dei salici. Uomo del mio tempo.</i> <u>U.Saba</u> . <i>Città vecchia. Ulisse.</i>
Unit 5	La letteratura fantastica. <u>Calvino</u> . <i>Il barone rampante</i> . Capitoli: 1, 2, 3, 8, 30
Unit 6	Donne e poesia. <u>Alda Merini</u> : <i>A tutti i giovani raccomando. Io ero un uccello. Padre, se scrivere è una colpa.</i> <u>A. Pozzi</u> . <i>Forse la vita. Pensiero. Sfiducia. Tu la notte, io il giorno.</i> <u>P. Cavalli</u> . <i>L'io singolare proprio mio. Cosa non devo fare. Una signora tutta ingombra di se stessa</i>
Unit 7	Letteratura e cinema. <u>P. P. Pasolini</u> : <i>Medea</i> . <u>A. Baricco</u> : <i>Novecento</i> .
Unit 8	Letteratura migrante. <u>Igiaba Scego</u> : <i>Dismatria; Salsicce</i> . Da <i>Pecore nere</i> .
Unit 9	Letteratura del Sud. <u>R. La Capria</u> . <i>Ferito a morte. Cap. 1</i> <u>Camilleri</u> . <i>Montalbano</i>
Unit 10	Letteratura e gli ultimi. <u>F. De Andrè</u> : <i>Il testamento di Tito. Bocca di rosa.</i> <u>P.V. Tondelli</u> : <u>L'estate romana</u> . Da <i>Un weekend postmoderno: cronache dagli anni Ottanta</i> .
Unit 11	Letteratura e gender. <u>E. Ferrante</u> : <i>L'amica geniale. Cap. 1-12</i>
Unit 12	Letteratura e fumetti. <u>Hugo Pratt</u> . <i>Corto Maltese. La ballata del mare salato.</i>

Research topic:

- L'emigrazione italiana. Documenti e testimonianze.
- Napoli in letteratura e nel cinema.
- La letteratura 'contro'. Contro il disagio, contro il potere, contro il patriarcato.
- Il tema del 'diverso' nella letteratura italiana contemporanea.

ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

For each essay, you will receive the goals of that assignment on the essay handout itself. Since the goals of each unit build on the skills developed in the previous one(s), my interpretation of grading criteria will become more stringent as the semester progresses. Please note that I expect your revisions to be free of grammatical, spelling, and formatting errors; failure to meet these expectations may result in a lowered grade. To ensure fairness, I evaluate the words on the page before me and do not factor perceptions about the effort that went into completing the assignment. This means I will not grade a weak paper up – or a strong paper down – based on my imagination of a student's capability. Because the essay itself is the only evidence I consider, an essay's grade indicates solely the extent to which the work submitted meets the criteria for a given assignment. Every Preceptor uses similar grading standards to ensure fairness in their evaluation of student work across sections.

These standards use as criteria the Elements of Academic Writing.

A paper in the **A-range** (A or A-) demonstrates a mastery of the Elements of Academic Writing. It advances an interesting, arguable thesis; establishes a compelling motive to suggest why the thesis is original or worthwhile; analyzes evidence insightfully and in depth; draws from well-chosen sources, deploying them in a variety of ways; employs a logical and progressive structure; and is written in a graceful and sophisticated style.

A paper in the **B-range** (B+, B, B-) Essays are strong and succeed in many ways but present a few key "Elements" that need significant work. While these essays offer an engaging and intelligent discussion, certain aspects don't yet live up to their full potential. "B+" essays might, for instance, offer a partial thesis and some good work with evidence but need substantial development in both areas and/or present shortcomings in others.

A paper in the **C-range** (C+, C, C-) Essays possess potential but are flawed in their current form, with several areas that require substantial improvement. These essays require significant, further revision in all or most pertinent "Elements."

A paper in the **D-range** provide little evidence and analysis; draw on sources insufficiently; or display an incoherent or rambling structure. It does, however, show signs of attempting to engage with the sources and skills expected in the assignment, and it is at least half the assigned length.

A paper earning a grade of **E** does not fulfill the basic expectations of the assignment. It may be less than half the assigned length or fail to engage with the sources and skills expected in the assignment. For example, in a research paper, the essay may show no signs of research.

Grade Breakdown. Final grades are determined according to the following breakdown:

Revision of Paper 1 (4 pages): 20%

Revision of Paper 2 (6 pages): 30%

Revision of Paper 3 (10 pages): 40%

Attendance and Participation: 10%

(**Participation** includes contributions to class discussions, workshops, and conferences, and sincere efforts on exercises, response papers, and drafts. Chronic tardiness, failure to come prepared, and distractions caused by electronic devices will lower your participation grade).

Letter grades and percentages

A 95% - 100%
A- 90% - 94%
B+ 87% - 89%
B 83% - 86%
B- 80% - 82%
C+ 77% - 79%
C 73% - 76%
C- 70% - 72%
D+ 67% - 69%
D 63% - 66%
E 60% - 62%
F under 60

COURSE POLICY

Attendance

You are allowed 1 unexcused absence. Documentation for any other absence **MUST** be produced and **APPROVED** by the professor or the Academic Director. For absences due to illness, please provide the professor with a doctor's note upon returning to class as well as inform them and/or the school the first day of illness. Each unexcused absence after the 1st will reduce your grade by 3 percentage points.

Late submissions

Assignments not submitted by the due date will receive a penalty of 10% for the first 24 hours, 20% for a 48 hour delay. No submissions will be accepted more than 3 days after the deadline, unless arrangements have been made with the instructor (for extensions under exceptional circumstances, apply to the course instructor).

Personal Technology

Please turn cell phones off during class. Laptops may be used for note taking, however social networking, emailing, surfing the Internet, playing games, etc. are absolutely forbidden during class. Any student caught doing the aforementioned activities during class will be asked to turn off their cell phones and/or computers. Repeated violations of this rule after the first warning will result in the student being marked absent for the day and permanently losing their laptop privileges. Be respectful; the use of personal electronic devices during class is limited to academic purposes.

Contesting a grade:

If students wish to contest a grade they must make an appointment to do so in person. The student should contact the instructor with any concerns within **ONE** week of receiving the grade. The student must also demonstrate that they have read the comments accompanying the grade by presenting a brief written statement specifying why the grade does not reflect the quality of the work. It is at the discretion of the instructor to decide whether the work and the student's request warrants any increase or decrease in the grade. Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments and feedback (in case of loss) and should also retain all their marked assignments.

Academic Honesty Statement:

Academic dishonesty is **NOT** tolerated in this course. Academic honesty is not only an ethical issue but also the foundation of scholarship. Cheating and plagiarism are therefore serious breaches of academic integrity. If you refer to someone else's work, appropriate references and citations must be provided.

EXTENDED SYLLABUS FOR HONORS STUDENTS:

- A.M.Ortese, *Il mare non bagna Napoli*. La città involontaria
- R.La Capria. *Ferito a morte*. Cap. 2-3
- D.Maraini. *Bagheria*. Cap 1.

Students from Majors in Italian Studies are required to submit a final 5000 word-dissertation in Italian language. Students from different Majors are allowed to submit the final dissertation in English language.

⇒ Research Topic

- La letteratura e la contestazione: Bob Dylan, Fabrizio De Andrè, Erri De Luca.
- La letteratura che racconta l'orrore: l'Inferno di Dante nelle pagine di Primo Levi.
- Napoli in corsivo: tra A.M.Ortese, E. Ferrante e R. La Capria.

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C 73% - 76%

C- 70% - 72%

D+ 67% - 69%

D 63% - 66%

E 60% - 62%

F under 60