

ITL 351 ITALIAN LITERATURE 1550-1900

Spring 2010

Mon 8.30 – 11.15
Office hours: by appointment

Prof. Jacopo Berti
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Credit 3 units

Extra Fees: 25.00 Euro

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The social and historical context of Italian poetry and prose will be studied from Counter Reformation to the end of XIX century. The first part of the course will focus on the multiple faces of Baroque (science, philosophy, literature, etc). Emphasis will also be given on the evolution of the theatre of XVIII century (Goldoni and Moliere), as well as on the important movement of Enlightenment. The second part of the course will analyze the Romantic movement in Italy, Germany and England. Lastly, the opposite movement of Romanticism will be studied: Naturalism in Europe and Verismo in Italy.

2. OBJECTIVE

The aim of the course is to give students the historical, cultural and critical instruments that are necessary to analyze the literary styles that have typified Italian literature from Baroque to Verismo and to understand its characteristics.

3. PRE-REQUISITES - REQUIREMENTS

Beginners will find this class appropriate as an initial approach to the History of Italian literature. The course will be conducted in English. However, the terminology used will often be in Italian, especially in cases where a translation is not possible or not appropriate enough.

4. METHOD

The teacher will introduce the topic of the session, as well as the topics' related readings. Then a debate on the readings and on the subjects analysed will follow. Audiovisual aids will be used when possible.

5. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

For a better performance, a good attendance and participation at assignments is recommended. In particular, reading one's textbooks as a regular home assignment is mandatory to develop one's knowledge appropriately.

Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. Two unexcused absences are allowed during the semester but more than two unexcused absences will lower your grade (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies) as follows: 3 unexcused absences, lowers one letter grade; 4 unexcused absences, lowers two letter grades; 5 unexcused absences, lowers 3 letter grades. More than **five unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of mid-term and final exams **can not** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips after the last exam. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these exam dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these exam dates. Missing the midterm or the final exam will mean failure of the course.

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

Participation: Continuous lateness as well as leaving the class for long breaks without your instructor's permission definitely influences the evaluation of your participation. **It is important that students come to class on time. Three delays/early departures will be considered one absence.** A correct, active and responsible participation is strictly recommended. During lectures, students are not allowed to use any electronic devices (cell-phones, Ipad, Blackberry etc.). Use of the computer in class is restricted to oral presentations, unless previously approved by the professor. **Note-taking is mandatory.** Eating is NOT allowed in class. Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on **silent mode** during class.

6. TESTS - ASSIGNMENTS

During the semester students will be evaluated through various assignments such as individual reading, assignments discussed afterwards in class, an oral presentation, one midterm and a final exam.

Oral Presentation: lasts approx. 20 minutes and deals with the historical context of the works read in class. It should be educational and interesting for the other students. You are asked to use photos, postcards, music, and films in your presentation. Simple reading from notes will not be accepted. Students shall bring to class short summaries of their oral presentations and the other students are responsible for keeping and studying them because they will be part of the exams.

7. EVALUATION-GRADING SYSTEM

10% attendance

30% mid-term test

30% final test

10% class contribution and effort

20% oral presentation

A = 100 - 93%, **A-** = 92 - 90%, **B+** = 89 - 87%, **B** = 86 - 83%, **B-** = 82 - 80%,
C+ = 79 - 77%, **C** = 76 - 73%, **C-** = 72 - 70%, **D** = 69 - 60%, **F** = 59 - 0%

8. TEXTBOOK-FURTHER READINGS-SOURCES

Required readings:

A mandatory **Course pack** (25.00 Euro) must be purchased at MA.BE Copisteria, in Via Niccolini 3A. Further handouts will be given by the teacher when necessary.

Further readings:

The following works represent a valid bibliography for all class sessions and interesting optional sources for your study:

M. De Luca and W. Giuliano, Selections from Italian poetry, Irvington On Hudson, 1966.

L. De' Lucchi, An Anthology of Italian Poems, 13th- 19th Centuries, London, 1922.

F. De Sanctis, History of Italian literature, 2 Vol., New York, 1931.

A.G. Debus, Man and nature in the Renaissance, CUP, Cambridge, 1978

R. Kirkpatrick, English and Italian literature from Dante to Shakespeare, Longman Publishing Group, 1995.

V. Luciani, A brief history of Italian literature, New York, 1967.

M.O. Marotti (ed.), Italian women writers from the Renaissance to the present, PSUP, Pennsylvania, 1996

C. Raffini, M. Ficino, P. Bembo, B. Castiglione: philosophical, aesthetic and political approaches in Renaissance Platonism, Lang Peter Publishing, 1998.

L. Rebay, Invitation to Italian poetry, New York, 1969

E. H. Wilkins, The invention of the sonnet and other studies in Italian literature, Rome, 1959.

Sources:

Sources for studying and making assignments are your **booklets, class notes and hand-outs.**

For access to a larger library please refer to the **Harold Acton Library of the British Institute** of Florence, in the Palazzo Lanfredini, Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Opening hours: Monday to Friday 10am – 6.30 pm.

9. EXTRA FEES

The preparing of your oral presentation might require some individual visits to a library, or the purchase of a book or a record the cost of which depends on the student's necessities and cannot be calculated in advance.

10. EXAMS

- Both mid-term and final tests are questionnaires (short essays questions) based on the notes taken during the sessions and on the readings in the textbooks.
- **Exam dates cannot be changed.**

11. LESSONS

22 Feb: Introduction of the course: Europe after the end of Renaissance (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 2-6)

1 Mar: Science and philosophy: Campanella and More. Scientific revolution: Bruno and Galileo (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 7-9 and 49-84 pp. 85-86)

8 Mar: The European Scene The new theatre: Goldoni and Moliere (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 10-19 pp. 114-137)

15 Mar: Movie "Stage beauty"

22 Mar: Rational power: The Enlightenment Two writers of Enlightenment: Beccaria and Voltaire (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 20-24 pp. 138-148)

29 Mar: Midterm exam

Spring Break April 2 – 11 (Fri. – Sun.)

12 Apr: A new thrill in Europe: Romanticism Autobiography and poetry: Foscolo and Goethe (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 25-28 and 149-151 pp. 29-31 and 152-167)

19 Apr Leopardi between Classicism and Romanticism: Leopardi's poetry (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 32-35 pp. 169-179)

26 Apr Leopardi's philosophical essays (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 180-210)

3 May Manzoni "I promessi sposi" (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 36-42 and 211-235)

10 May Movie "Senso"

17 May Naturalismo, Positivismo and Verismo: Verga (**Reading assignments:** course pack pp. 43-48 pp. 236-249)

24/27 May: Final exam