



ITL250 Survey of Italian Literature - SP 2016

M F (lecture) 9:10-10:20 / W (discussion) 9:10-9:50 (group A), 10:00-10:40 (group B)



BRUNO GRAZIOLI

314 Hatfield Hall - bgraziol@smith.edu / Office hours: Mon 4:15-5:15 and by app.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The primary goal of this course is to prepare students who are planning on attending the Smith JYA in Florence, Italy. The focus of the class will be on the historical, literary, artistic, and intellectual movements that shaped the rise of a new Italian culture in the Middle Ages and in the early Renaissance (from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century). In particular, we'll study the early modern discourse on love, both sacred and profane, and how it was codified in a variety of literary forms that contributed to the cultural construction and evolution of romantic love in the West. Particular emphasis will be given to improving reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in Italian.

INSTRUCTIONAL FORMAT: Class will meet twice a week for 70 minutes each time for a total of 25 class sessions (not counting class #1). These meetings will be divided between illustrated lectures, quizzes and other class projects (Monday) + in-class reviews, debates and presentations (Friday). Discussion sessions (Wednesday) will meet once a week for 40 minutes each time. The main purpose of these meetings will be to practice conversation (but also further writing) about literary texts. Here below is a summary of the weekly activities for this course:

DAY	BEFORE CLASS	IN CLASS	AFTER CLASS
M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REVIEW NOTES FROM FRIDAY HOMEWORK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAKE A QUIZ BASED ON ASSIGNED HOMEWORK/LECTURES PARTICIPATE IN THE MAIN LECTURE AND TAKE NOTES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ORGANIZE NOTES FROM CLASS
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WORK ON REFLECTION PAPER (WHEN ASSIGNED) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SUBMIT 1ST DRAFT OF REFLECTION PAPER (WHEN ASSIGNED) (A WEEK LATER) SUBMIT REFLECTION PAPER (REVISED) PARTICIPATE IN PEER REVIEW OF REFLECTION PAPERS (1ST DRAFT) COMPLETE COMPREHENSION EXERCISES ON LITERARY TEXTS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REVIEW AND UPDATE REFLECTION PAPER
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REVIEW NOTES FROM MONDAY HOMEWORK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> REVIEW NOTES FROM MONDAY'S LECTURE (GROUP WORK) PARTICIPATE IN A CLASS DEBATE ABOUT THE WEEK'S TOPICS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COMPLETE ASSIGNED HOMEWORK FOR WEEK AFTER

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes or modification to this syllabus as needed

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: If you require special accommodations or have special learning needs, please inform the instructor. No accommodations will be granted without proper written communication from the Disability Service office or your Class Dean's office.

ASSESSMENT: to pass the course you will:

- attend no less than 23 (/26) class meetings and no less than 9 (/10) discussion sessions
- complete assigned exercises on literary texts
- complete quizzes based on readings, listening assignments and lectures
- submit 4 reflection papers ("saggio")
- submit a final paper ("saggio finale")
- complete a midterm and a final group oral (spoken) test

FORMS OF ASSESSMENT	VALUE
ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION & HOMEWORK	10%
EXERCISES ON LITERARY TEXTS	10%
WEEKLY QUIZZES (10X2%)	20%
REFLECTION PAPERS (4X5%)	20%
FINAL PAPER	20%
MIDTERM AND FINAL ORAL TEST	20%

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW:

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and be prepared for the day's activities. Regular attendance records (from class #2) will be taken. Reasonable, but limited absences (sickness, personal emergency, transport delay and other impediments), will be tolerated in no more than 3 absences (= approximately 10% of the course). You must attend no less than 23 classes to pass the course. *Please, note that this is not an invitation to miss 3 classes, but rather a "safety net" for you to ensure that, should you have to be absent from class, your final grade will not be affected as a result.* No documentation required, as no distinction will be made between excused or unexcused absences. Late arrivals/early departures from class, sleeping or causing disruptions in class or during class activities may result in an absence. Your final grade will dock a full letter grade (from A to B) if you miss four classes (= 15% of the course), and another full letter grade (from B to C) if you miss five classes (= 20% of the course).

Class Participation, Homework: The two are strictly connected since you will only be able to take part actively in the class if you will have completed all assigned homework. Active participation is a crucial part of the learning environment we will work together to create, and you are expected to take part in class in a constructive way. Participation can happen in a number of different ways: engaging in class or small-group discussions, asking questions, providing analysis, opinions, and experience, volunteering to read passages aloud when asked. When determining your class participation grade, traditional criteria such as material preparation, completed reading before class, and collaborative group work are all evaluated. But it is the active, meaningful and informed verbal and written contribution that you make that is most important to your overall participation grade. Indeed, willingness to share views in classroom discussion and the insight fullness of your comments and question about assigned readings will all be taken into account when evaluating your participation. Additionally, it is important to demonstrate a positive and supportive attitude to the instructor and your classmates, and give full attention to class activities (i.e., cell-phones off, laptop for notes only, not sleeping or distracted, etc. See below for more info on academic policies). In general, laxity and lack of pro-activeness will have a negative effect on your overall performance.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes or modification to this syllabus as needed

Exercises on Literary Texts: For each scheduled discussion session specific exercises on the literary texts presented in class will be assigned. You will carefully complete them before class so that you may attend the discussion session prepared and ready to engage in further activities. Since the course covers a large content and a vast period of time, the schedule of topics will be rather dense and fast-paced. Therefore, no excuses or exceptions will be made for students who attend class unprepared and who will not be able to participate in the activities.

Weekly Quizzes: 10 quizzes will be administered during the course. Quizzes will be composed of 10 questions (closed-ended and open-ended) and will be based on lectures and readings of the previous week. Make-up quizzes will not be given (see relevant section below).

Reflection Papers (“saggio”): You will write approximately 500 words (= 1.5 pages). The topic of these papers will be based on lectures, discussions and readings. You will normally submit the first draft of an essay (“saggio #1, 2, 3...” in the class calendar below) on a Wednesday in class, where you will peer-review an essay written by another student. At the end of class you will receive your essay back. You will then carefully read comments/suggestions, amend the first draft of your essay and submit a revised version the following Wednesday (“saggio #1BIS, 2BIS, 3BIS...” in the class calendar below) to your instructor. Therefore, only the second version of your essays will be evaluated and you will only receive 1 grade for these assignments.

Final Paper (“saggio finale”): You will write approximately 2000 words (= 6 pages) + bibliography. The four reflection papers above described will build up to the final paper, so that, in order to put together the final paper, you will need to combine the four reflection papers in an organic fashion and discuss other points as needed in order to fully address the title of this assignment.

Midterm and Final Oral Test: Both these oral (speaking) tests will be group-based and administered in class. The aim of these assignments is to answer three questions based on content covered in class up until that point: firstly, you will discuss the questions in a group and subsequently you will provide the answer to your instructor.

WORKLOAD EXPECTATIONS (OUTSIDE OF CLASS): You are expected to spend at least two hours of time on academic studies outside of, and in addition to, each class session. Therefore, on average, you should dedicate six hours of your weekly studies to this course divided as follows:

- **1 hour:** READ, ORGANIZE AND INTEGRATE NOTES TAKEN IN CLASS ON MONDAYS. Besides reviewing what covered in class, this process should help you identify how much content of the lecture you have retained and gaps in the notes taken. At the end of this process you should have at least 1 question for you instructor, which you will ask in class.
- **2 hours:** PREPARE FOR WEDNESDAY DISCUSSION SESSION BY COMPLETING ASSIGNED EXERCISES. During this process you will be able to practice the use of the Italian language to analyze, describe and discuss given literary texts. This is a vital step in the learning process that will allow you to connect the theory to the practice.
- **2 hours:** CONSOLIDATE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED BY FAMILIARIZING YOURSELF WITH LITERARY TEXTS AND HOW THEY RELATE TO THE THEMES EXPLORED IN CLASS. Given the complex nature of the Italian language used in the texts presented in the course, your extra attention and dedication to reading (or re-reading!) and understanding is necessary.
- **1 hour:** WRITE (OR RE-WRITE) YOUR REFLECTION PAPERS. The topic of these papers will always be closely connected with the weekly lectures and discussions. Therefore, provided you class notes are solid, you have completed all assigned exercises and participated in class discussion, you should not spend more than 1 hour on one single reflection paper.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes or modification to this syllabus as needed

MOODLE: Moodle creates an interactive virtual learning environment for students and educators alike. This web-based platform provides you with 24/7 access to the course syllabus, schedule of class lectures and assignments, non-textbook required readings, and additional resources directly related to your studies. You must access the Moodle schedule page regularly in order to be updated on the program and be notified in time in case short-notice changes to the program may be required. If you are not a Smith College student, you must report to the Registrar's Office asap and obtain Smith login credentials for Moodle.

ESSENTIAL READING LIST:

There is no required textbook for this course.

Readings in preparation for a class will be generally, but not exclusively, taken from the following texts. All readings will be posted in Moodle. They will be assigned well in advance (at least a week) to allow students ample time to read and prepare for class lectures and discussions.

- Paolo E. Balboni e Mario Cardona, *Storia e testi di letteratura italiana per stranieri* (Perugia: Guerra, 2004).
- Paolo E. Balboni e Matteo Santipolo, *Profilo di storia italiana per stranieri* (Perugia: Guerra, 2004).
- Maddalena Angelino e Elena Ballarin, *L'italiano attraverso la storia dell'arte* (Perugia: Guerra, 2006).

REQUIRED DOCUMENTARIES:

The following documentaries will be assigned during the semester as a means to help you better understand the course topics and visually contextualize the historical, literary, artistic figures we will discuss in class. All these documentaries can be streamed on YouTube, and they will be posted in Moodle. Links are also provided here below for convenience:

- San Francesco d'Assisi: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIXTzXihBI>
- La grade Firenze dei Medici: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpzAygWCeEA>
- Il Rinascimento: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7TU4LpPNkA>
- Michelangelo Buonarroti: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYxBliOUI>
- Leonardo Da Vinci: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF8zsmIW0tw>
- Dante, The Divine Comedy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUYXGB8Uk4M>

Other documentaries will be added as needed during the semester.

Calendario delle lezioni.

	Date	Macro argomenti	Argomenti specifici delle lezioni	Scadenze
--	------	-----------------	-----------------------------------	----------

L: Lunedì – M: Mercoledì – G: Giovedì – V: Venerdì

Introduzione generale.

1	25 29 GEN	Introduzione: perché studiare letteratura?	L: Comunicazione quotidiana e letteratura M: NO Incontro di Discussione V: Elementi fondamentali della letteratura	
2	1 5 FEB	Unificazione nazionale. La lingua italiana.	L: L'Italia unificata. M: <i>l'Inno di Mameli</i> . V: La "questione della lingua".	L: Mock quiz

Le Origini e il Duecento.

San Francesco, Jacopone da Todi, Guinizzelli e Cavalcanti, Giacomo da Lentini, Cecco Angiolieri.

3	8 12 FEB	Le città stato. San Francesco. Jacopone da Todi.	L: Il medioevo e l'età dei comuni M: San Francesco, <i>Il cantico delle creature</i> V: L'Italia dei monasteri. Ordini religiosi.	L: quiz #1
4	15 19 FEB	Scuola siciliana e scuola toscana. Il Dolce Stil Novo.	L: Amore sacro e Amore profano. M: NO Incontro di Discussione V: Le repubbliche marinare.	L: quiz #2 G: Talk by Zhang (see Moodle)
5	22 26 FEB	Guido Guinizzelli. Giacomo da Lentini. Cecco Angiolieri.	L: Il sonetto. M: Cavalcanti, <i>Tu m'hai sì piena di dolor</i> V: Il paesaggio dell'Italia medievale.	L: quiz #3 M: saggio #1

Il Trecento.

Dal latino al volgare attraverso l'opera di Dante, Petrarca e Boccaccio.

6	29 FEB 4 MAR	Dante. Petrarca. Boccaccio. I	L: Papato e Impero. Ghibellini e Guelfi. M: Dante, <i>Tanto gentile e tanto onesta</i> V: L'arte del Trecento. La Commedia.	L: quiz #4 M: saggio #1BIS
7	7 11 MAR	Dante. Petrarca. Boccaccio. II	L: Una nuova figura di intellettuale. M: Petrarca, <i>Voi ch'ascoltate in rime...</i> V: La figura della donna angelicata.	L: quiz #5 M: saggio #2 V: Midt. Oral Test

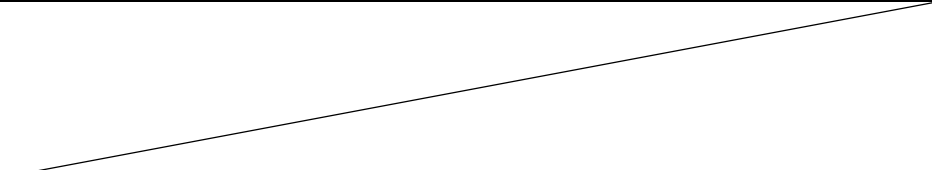
Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes or modification to this syllabus as needed

	12 20 MAR	<i>Spring Recess – buona vacanza di primavera!</i>		
8	21 25 MAR	Dante. Petrarca. Boccaccio. III	L: Dalla poesia alla prosa. La novella. M: Boccaccio, <i>Federigo degli Alberighi</i> V: Petrarca e Boccaccio: simili e diversi.	M: saggio #2BIS

Il Quattrocento e il Cinquecento.

Leon B. Alberti, Lorenzo de' Medici, Leonardo da Vinci, Angelo Poliziano.

Ludovico Ariosto, Niccolò Machiavelli, Francesco Guicciardini, Gaspara Stampo.

9	28 MAR 1 APR	Introduzione all'Umanesimo e al Rinascimento.	L: Caratteri generali dell'epoca. M: L. De Medici, <i>Trionfo di Bacco e Arianna</i> V: L'età delle Signorie. I Medici.	L: quiz #6 M: saggio #3	
10	4 8 APR	Il poema cavalleresco. Ludovico Ariosto.	L: Origini e diffusione di questo genere. M: Ludovico Ariosto, <i>Il Proemio</i> V: Architettura: L. B. Alberti e F. Brunelleschi.	L: quiz #7 M: saggio #3BIS	
11	11 15 APR	La riflessione politica.	L: Il fine giustifica i mezzi. M: Machiavelli, <i>I modi e i governi ...</i> V: Modernità di Machiavelli.	L: quiz #8 M: saggio #4	
12	18 22 APR	La trattatistica e la lirica.	L: Altre forme letterarie. M: Gaspara Stampo, <i>Sonetto CIV</i> V: Veronica Franco, <i>Non più parole: ai fatti...</i>	L: quiz #9 M: saggio #4BIS	
13	25 29 APR	Il tardo Rinascimento.	L: Riforma e Controriforma. M: NO Incontro di Discussione V: Ripasso: l'Amore e le sue interpretazioni.	L: quiz #10 V: Final Oral Test	
	Entro il 6 APR				saggio finale (printed, in my mailbox)

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes or modification to this syllabus as needed

ACADEMIC POLICIES

PROFESSIONALISM AND COMMUNICATION: You are expected to maintain a professional, respectful and conscientious manner in the classroom with your instructors and fellow peers. You are expected to take your academic work seriously and engage actively in the class. Advance preparation, completing your assignments, showing a focused and respectful attitude, expressing effective interpersonal and cross-cultural communication are key for a successful semester. Simply showing up for class or meeting minimum outlined criteria will not earn you an A in this class.

REFLECTION PAPERS, ESSAY: Assignments not handed in on time will not be accepted unless permission has been granted. Assignments cannot be sent by e-mail but must be handed in printed form. Any form of plagiarism, including on-line material will result in a failure-grade and will be reported (see below for further info on academic integrity).

MAKE-UP QUIZZES: Quizzes will not be rescheduled. Pre-arranged travel/anticipated absence does not constitute an emergency and requests for rescheduling quizzes will not be granted. Only documented (i.e. from the Dean's office) requests will be considered.

CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS ETC.: Students who create a disturbance or fail to pay attention in class due to electronic devices, will receive a warning and must immediately put devices away unless otherwise instructed by your professor. Inappropriate usage of your electronic devices or repeat warnings will result in a warning and may lead to a deduction in your grade and/or class dismissal. Students asked to leave class will be marked absent.

Cell Phones: Use of a cell phone for calls, text messages, emails, or any other purposes during class is impolite, inappropriate and not allowed. Students are asked to show common courtesy to others in order to create a positive learning environment and eliminate distractions for everyone. All electronic devices are to be turned off or silenced and placed in your purse, backpack, briefcase, etc. during class time.

Laptops: The use of a laptop may be limited to specific purposes including note taking, as allowed by special needs/academic accommodations, and/or at the discretion of the instructor. The use of a laptop is prohibited during all tests and quizzes, unless otherwise specified by your instructor.

MONITORING GRADES AND ATTENDANCE: You are responsible for monitoring your grades and attendance records throughout the course. Any questions or concerns should be discussed immediately with your instructor.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is a core value in this course (as in others). You are expected work independently in the pursuit of knowledge, conduct yourself in an honest and ethical manner and respect the intellectual work of your peers and faculty. You may review Smith College's Honor Code [HERE](#). Violations may result in serious consequences.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes or modification to this syllabus as needed