

CLC 2132/ITA 2240 [Fall Term 2017]

Italian Journeys

Instructor: Dr. Cristina Caracchini

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Classes: Tuesday 1:30-2:30

Thursday 1:30-3:30

P&AB-106

Anti-requisite(s): formerly CLC 2100/Ital 2100

Contact Information:

Dr. Caracchini (ccaracch@uwo.ca)

Office hour: Mondays 2:30-4:00 or by
appointment

Arts and Humanities Building 3R16A

Office hour:

Arts and Humanities Building 3R18

** please direct all questions or inquiries to the
Teaching Assistant before contacting the
professor*



Course Description

This course introduces students to the cultural variety of Italian cities from two different perspectives: that of their natives and that of their tourists. We will explore three major capitals of Italian culture: Florence, Venice, and Naples, at the height of their artistic and literary splendor, and at crucial moments of their socio-political history. Our journey spans from the Renaissance to the present. For each city, we will highlight at least one fundamental contribution of its illustrious inhabitants to the shaping of Western culture. We will start with Boccaccio's Decameron for Florence, continuing with Basile's fairy tales for Naples, and ending with Goldoni's innovative theatre for Venice.

We will learn to recognize the work of artists such as Michelangelo, Botticelli and Brunelleschi who have beautified their urban landscapes whilst, with the Medicis, we will look at the phenomenon of patronage.

We will discuss the ideas of those who, like Machiavelli, have described or shaped with their pen the modern consciousness of these cities and of the Western world.

The journey unfolds following the footsteps of famous travelers such as Goethe, Dickens and Forster, whose descriptions of the *Bel Paese* have watermarked the expectations of millions of tourists.

Instrumental in our exploration of these cities will be the images of James Ivory's *A Room with a View*, Matteo Garrone's *Gomorra*, and Soldini's *Bread and Tulips* which will provide students with a visual interpretation of the social and urban space.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and select thematic patterns in travel narratives;
- Compare and contrast perceptions and perspectives of foreign and local writers;
- Understand the process of the creation of clichés connected to cultural identity;

- Explain the origin and development of the tourism industry;
- Know major events (in their historical and geographical contexts), crucial figures and main cultural achievements in Italian history, and their impact on Western culture;
- Use different medias such as literature, visual arts, and music to build an understanding of a culture.

MARK BREAKDOWN	
Active Participation:	10%
Midterm:	30%
Group Presentation:	10%
Take-home Essay:	20%
Final Exam:	30%

The course will be organized according the three following clusters: ******

- I. FLORENCE: Towards the Renaissance. Money, Monuments and Visitors
- II. NAPLES: The people. The fairy tales. The difficult present.
- III. VENICE: Historical and Imaginary. The Carnival.

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I. FIRENZE: Towards the Renaissance. Money, Monuments and Visitors

🌐 External gaze E.M Forster. *A Room with a View* (selected pages and **🎬 Film screening**)



📖 Italian voices from the past:

- 1a) Boccaccio. *Decameron*. (Selected pages)
- 1b) Machiavelli. *The Prince*. (Selected pages).
- 2a) The Medicis.
- 2b) Brunelleschi, Botticelli, and Michelangelo.

II. NAPOLI: The Fairy-Tale City and Its Difficult Present



🌐 External gaze:

Dickens *Pictures from Italy*. Naples (Selected pages).

🏠 Italian voices from the past:

Basile's *Pentameron*

🎬 Film screening:

Garrone's *Gomorra*, 2008 (and Selected pages from From Saviano's book: *Gomorra*)

III. VENEZIA: Historic and Imagined.

🌐 External gaze:

Goethe. *Italian Journey*. (Selected pages).

🏠 Italian voices from

Carlo Goldoni.
A&C Black,

🎬 Film Voices

S. Soldini. *Bred*



Journey. (Selected

the past:

The Servant of Two Masters.
2003.

Screening; - Modern Italian

and Tulips

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A READER prepared by the instructor and the following books will be available at the Campus Bookstore.

D'Epiro, P., M. Pinkowish. *Sprezzatura: 50 Ways Italian Genius Shaped the World*. Anchor. 2001.

Bondanella, C.J., M. Musa, *The Italian Renaissance Reader*, New York: Penguin 1987.

Forster, E. M. *A Room with a View*. Penguin, 2011.

Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. *Italian Journey: 1786-1788*. Penguin, 1962.

Goldoni, Carlo. *Servant of Two Masters*. A&C Black, 2003.

Please note that the **OWL page** for this course is to be consulted before each lesson as it contains both required and optional learning material.

N. B.: A detailed calendar will be posted on OWL. **The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course outline and calendar.**

Active Participation

In this course, your **attendance** and **active** participation are very important. 10% is a significant part of your final grade. You are expected to complete the assigned readings before coming to class in order to contribute your ideas to the common discussion and profitably take part in group work.

Should you not be able to attend class for a legitimate reason, please get in touch with your TA ahead of time.

Group Presentations:

You will take part in one oral presentation, either in class or through the Voice Thread tool on OWL. You will be graded according to your own performance (for example your ability to research and clearly explain a specific topic to the class) as well as on your contribution to the effectiveness of the group performance

Mid-year Written Evaluation and Final exam

The mid-year written evaluation and the final exam will both include questions that will be posted on Owl on a weekly basis throughout the entire academic year by your TA, as well as new questions. Such questions are intended to help you evaluate your understanding of each lecture as the course progresses and your knowledge of the topics increases. You are warmly invited to check them systematically and ask for any clarification you may need. They vary in length and require both short and long answers.

Policy concerning electronic devices

Cellular phones must be turned off during class. The use of electronic devices, including laptops, is not allowed in class unless differently stated by the instructor on specific occasions or unless you have requested and obtained the explicit permission.

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of Registration.

The **Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Modern Languages and Literatures courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures website at

<http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

