

Italian culture through contemporary literature

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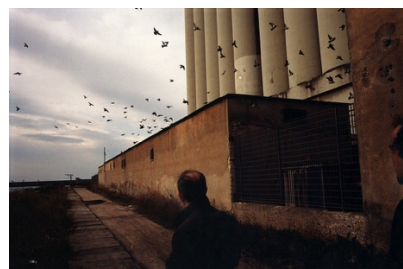
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Pictures 1,3,4,5,6 by Emiliano Mancuso. Picture 2 by Jacopo Farina

INSTRUCTOR: Maria Teresa De Luca
OFFICE: 15 Seminary Place, 5103 (5th floor)
OFFICE HOURS: M 4:30-5:30pm; W 1-2pm
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Spring 2020
First class: January 22
CLASS HOURS: M/W 2:50-4:10pm
LOCATION: AB-5050

- COURSE DESCRIPTION

Changes at the social and economic level have occurred in Italy in the last thirty years. A globalized economy, multiculturalism, the advent of mass-communication and environmental threats have changed the ordinary life of people and raised new questions about Italian society: is the opposition North-South still actual in a globalized Italy? What does it mean to be Italian nowadays? Do young Italians really want to live with their families until their thirties or even forties?

The course will explore some of these changes, and the ways they have been represented and interpreted in new techniques of written and visual communication. In particular, it will consider the role of literature in contemporary society: should the literary representation of the surrounding world mirror, denounce or explain the cultural reality it encounters? Is literature more effectively nourished by social emergencies, or does it need a peaceful, isolated environment to flourish? Is the author just someone who masters the art of writing, or an intellectual with a complex vision of the world? What is the relationship between social engagement and literary engagement? What is the role of an intellectual in contemporary society? Should literature be considered a democratic mass-product or is it something for intellectual élites? What is the relationship of traditional literature to newer alternative, more pervasive and efficient forms of expressions and communication? We will explore aspects of all these questions, using recent Italian literature and recent Italian culture as our laboratory and focus of study.

- COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course aims to develop awareness of contemporary issues in Italian culture and to familiarize students with the literary and artistic representation of them. Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Recognize elements such as plot, point of view, symbols and figurative language in literature.
- Identify the linguistic and rhetorical elements in literature and their role in expressing the author's point of view.
- Understand, speak, and write articulately about some of the main issues in contemporary Italian society, and be able to navigate the complexities of Italian social and cultural life.
- Read and write about all of the above at an advanced level *in Italian*.

- COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

REQUIRED TEXTS

Course material will be available on Sakai.

L'italia postindustriale (la dismissione)

LIBRI

Giuseppe Culicchia: *Torino è casa mia* (2008)

Silvia Avallone: *Acciaio* (2010)

Alessandro Leogrande: *Dalle macerie* (2018)

Franco Arminio: *Cedi la strada agli alberi* (2017) poesie scelte

FOTOGRAFIE

Emiliano Mancuso

TerraProject

CANZONI

Caparezza: *Vieni a ballare in Puglia* (2008)

Il precariato

LIBRI

Michela Murgia: *Il mondo deve sapere* (2006)

Antonio Incorvaia, Alessandro Rimassa: *Generazione mille euro* (2006)

Edoardo Nesi: *Storia della mia gente* (2010)

FOTOGRAFIE

Michele Borzoni

CANZONI

Caparezza: *Eroe (storia di Luigi delle Bicocche)* (2008)

Caparezza: *Non me lo posso permettere* (2014)

FILM

Soldini: *Giorni e nuvole* (2007)

Paolo Virzì: *Tutta la vita davanti* (2008)

Gianni Amelio: *L'intrepido* (2014)

Sydney Sibilia: *"Meglio ricercati che ricercatori": Smetto quando voglio* (2014)

L'emigrazione

LIBRI

Gianrico Carofiglio: *Né qui né altrove: una notte a Bari* (2008)

Carmine Abate: *Terre di andata - Poesie e prose* (2011)

Giovanna Pandolfelli: *Terra, mare, altrove* (2017)

Franco Arminio: *Resteranno i canti* (2018) poesie scelte

STREET ART

Daniele Geniale (2019)

Italian culture through contemporary literature

CANZONE

Brunori Sas: *Lamezia Milano* (2017)

FILM

Riccardo Milani: *La guerra degli Anto'* (1999)

Gianluca Tavarelli: *Liberi (Break free)* 2003

Checco Zalone: *Quo vado?* (2016)

L'immigrazione

LIBRI

Gabriella Kuruvilla, Igiaba Scego, Ingy Mubiayi Kakese e Laila Wadia, *Pecore nere* (2005)

Giuseppe Catozzella: *E tu splendi* (2018)

CANZONE

Brunori Sas: *L'uomo nero* (2017)

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend all classes; if for some reason you expect to miss a class, please use the [University absence reporting website](#) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

All students must attend regularly. No more than **3 absences** are allowed; use them wisely, for health and other serious issues. Having more than four absences, consistently arriving to class late, and engaging in behavior that is distracting to the rest of the class are grounds for a significantly lower mark in class participation.

Laptops, smart phones, iPods, and other electronic devices: may **NOT be used or visible** during class. Please turn off and store before class. If you must check phone or text messages due to a special or emergency situation, please inform the instructor before class, and leave the classroom to do so. Unauthorized use of such devices during class will result in your being marked **absent** for the day.

Audio and/or video recordings of the class are **NOT allowed**.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

assignment	weight	description
Class participation	20%	Based on: - preparation for class; - small group work (engagement, participation); - responding when called upon / volunteering answers.
Pop quizzes	10%	Short pop-quizzes at the beginning of the class covering the assigned material for the day.
Weekly report	20%	A paragraph (150 words ca.) on a topic discussed in class during the week. Texts should be uploaded on Sakai every week by Sunday midnight.
Oral presentations	20%	Two oral activities. Students will present a) a newspaper article on a selected topic; b) the assigned reading for the day.
Final essay	30%	Short essay (5-6 pages) on an aspect of Italian culture and recent literature relevant to the course (requires some external research).

ASSESSMENT POLICY

Late work will not be accepted for any reason (other than documented medical or family emergency) and will be given a grade of 'zero'.

Missed tests can not be made up. If you take all tests, the lowest grade will be dropped when the class final grade is calculated. Missing more than one test will result in a 'zero' grade for each additional missed test.

The use of electronic devices during examinations is prohibited.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

In order to avoid plagiarism (the representation of the words or ideas of others as one's own), every quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and must be properly cited in the text or in a footnote. Always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely when you paraphrase or summarize material from another source (in print, electronic, or other medium) in whole or in part. If you are in doubt, please consult the RUTGERS policies, regulations and ordinances regarding academic honesty and integrity: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>, and do not hesitate to contact your instructor for clarification.

OBSERVATION OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students may make up course work missed to observe a major religious holiday only if they make arrangements with the instructor at least seventy-two hours in advance.

ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

(848) 445-6800

Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854

In order to establish reasonable accommodations, students with disabilities should contact the appropriate [disability services office](#) at the campus where they are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide [documentation](#). If the documentation supports the request for reasonable accommodations, the disability services office on your campus will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with me and discuss the accommodations as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the [ODS web site](#).

STUDENT-WELLNESS SERVICES

Just In Case Web App at <http://codu.co/cee05e>

Provides access to helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis, including an easy way to contact CAPS or RUPD.

COUNSELING, ADAP AND PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES (CAPS)

[\(848\) 932-7884](tel:8489327884)

17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

[CAPS](#) is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support the efforts of students to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

VIOLENCE, PREVENTION AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE (VPVA)

[\(848\) 932-1181](tel:8489321181)

3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty.

- COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Class	Texts	Assignment
1	20 gennaio	MARTIN LUTHER KING'S DAY	
	22 gennaio	Presentazione del syllabus Discussione: che cos'è la letteratura	Scegliere due foto e commentarle
2	27 gennaio	<u>Fotografia</u> - Emiliano Mancuso: <i>Stato d'Italia. Una 'diversa bellezza'?</i> - Terraproject: <i>Photo gallery 4</i> <u>Lettura</u> - Silvia Avallone: <i>Acciaio</i> (pp. 9-20)	Ricerca sull'industria pesante italiana
	29 gennaio	<u>Lettura</u> - Silvia Avallone: <i>Acciaio</i> (pp. 9-20)	Ricerca sull'ILVA di Taranto
3	3 febbraio	<u>Canzoni</u> - Caparezza: <i>Vieni a ballare in Puglia</i> <u>Lettura</u> - Alessandro Leogrande: <i>Dalle macerie</i> (pp. 297-302)	
	5 febbraio	<u>Lettura</u> - Alessandro Leogrande: <i>Dalle macerie</i> (pp.-206-209)	
4	10 febbraio	<u>Lettura</u> - Giuseppe Culicchia: <i>Torino è casa mia</i> (pp. 16-21)	Ricerca sul mestiere del paesologo
	12 febbraio	<u>Fotografia</u> - Terraproject: <i>The long seafont</i> <u>Lettura</u> - Franco Armino: poesie scelte da <i>Cedi la strada agli alberi</i>	Ricerca sul precariato in Italia
5	17 febbraio	Introduzione al precariato <u>Fotografie</u> - Michele Borzoni: <i>Workforce - Open competitive examinations</i> - Michele Borzoni: <i>Workforce – Workers buyout</i> <u>Canzoni</u> - Caparezza: <i>Eroe (storia di Luigi delle Bicocche)</i> - Caparezza: <i>Non me lo posso permettere</i>	
	19 febbraio	<u>Lettura</u> - Edoardo Nesi: <i>Storia della mia gente</i>	
6	24 febbraio	<u>Lettura</u> - Incorvaia/Rimassa: <i>Generazione mille euro</i>	
	26 febbraio	<u>Lettura</u> - Incorvaia/Rimassa: <i>Generazione mille euro</i>	
7	2 marzo	<u>Fotografie</u> - Michele Borzoni: <i>Workforce. Call centers</i> <u>Lettura</u> - Michela Murgia: <i>Il mondo deve sapere</i> (pp. 3-8)	
	4 marzo	<u>Lettura</u> - Michela Murgia: <i>Il mondo deve sapere</i> (pp. 9-14)	
8	9 marzo	<u>Lettura</u> - Michela Murgia: <i>Il mondo deve sapere</i> (pp. 21-27)	
	11 marzo	<u>Lettura</u> - Michela Murgia: <i>Il mondo deve sapere</i> (pp. 46-50; 82-83)	Ricerca sull'emigrazione

SPRING BREAK			
9	23 marzo	Introduzione all'emigrazione <u>Canzone</u> - Brunori Sas: <i>Lamezia Milano</i> <u>Street Art</u> - Murale di Daniele Geniale. (Videochiamata con l'artista?)	
	25 marzo	<u>Lettura</u> - Franco Armino: poesie da <i>Resteranno i canti</i>	
10	30 marzo	<u>Lettura</u> - Gianrico Carofiglio: <i>Né qui né altrove: una notte a Bari</i>	
	1 aprile	<u>Lettura</u> - Gianrico Carofiglio: <i>Né qui né altrove: una notte a Bari</i>	
11	6 aprile	<u>Lettura</u> - Carmelo Abate: <i>Terre di andata - Poesie e prose</i>	Visione del film <i>Quo vado?</i>
	8 aprile	<u>Film</u> - Discussione del film <i>Quo vado?</i> di Checco Zalone	
12	13 aprile	<u>Lettura</u> - Giovanna Pandolfelli: <i>Terra, mare, altrove</i>	
	15 aprile	<u>Lettura</u> - Giovanna Pandolfelli: <i>Terra, mare, altrove</i>	Ricerca sull'immigrazione
13	20 aprile	Introduzione all'immigrazione <u>Canzone</u> - Colapesce: <i>L'uomo nero</i> <u>Lettura</u> - Giuseppe Catozzella: <i>E tu splendi</i>	
	22 aprile	<u>Lettura</u> - Giuseppe Catozzella: <i>E tu splendi</i>	
14	27 aprile	<u>Lettura</u> - Giuseppe Catozzella: <i>E tu splendi</i>	
	29 aprile	<u>Lettura</u> - Giuseppe Catozzella: <i>E tu splendi</i>	
	4 maggio	<u>Lettura</u> - Laila Wadia: 'Curry di pollo' (<i>Pecore nere</i> , pp. 39-52)	