

INTRODUCTION TO ITALIAN LITERATURE

Fall 2020

Department of Italian
Rutgers University



Class Code:
01:560:305

Weekly meetings:
Tuesday 5.00 – 5:45 (on Zoom)

Instructor:
Chiara Degli Esposti
cd664@italian.rutgers.edu

Office Hours:
Wednesday 3-4 pm and by appointment
(on Zoom)



Course Description:

This course explores Italian Literature from the beginnings to the 16th century, starting with early texts in Italian vernacular, the religious poetry of the 13th century, and continuing with the writings of canonical writers such as Dante, Boccaccio, Petrarca, Ariosto, Machiavelli, and Tasso. The course addresses different literary genres (lyrical and epic poetry, short story, epistolography) in their historical and cultural context. Active participation in the discussion of literary texts is required.

Learning Goals:

At the end of the course, students will be able to identify the main elements of various literary movements, recognize different genres of writings (sonnet, canzone, epic poem, novella) and analyze literary texts according to their main generic and formal conventions. Students will learn to relate literature to its specific historical and cultural values. Taught in Italian, this course will also provide a review of complex grammatical and syntactical structures and will enable to understand how rhetorical and stylistic features function in a particular cultural tradition. Finally, students will begin to develop and practice a literary vocabulary adequate to the discipline.



Departmental Goal I and III: Linguistic Proficiency and Professional Preparation

Required Texts:

Literature: All material is available via the course website on Canvas.

Language: Dizionario della lingua italiana Treccani

<http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/>

Useful Websites: Cambridge History of Italian Literature (in inglese)

<https://doi-org.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/10.1017/CHOL9780521434928>,

Letteratura Italia <http://www.letteraturaitalia.it/letteratura-italia-pdf/>

Technology Requirements:

- Computer/laptop with webcam, microphone and speakers
- Internet connection

Please visit the [Rutgers Student Tech Guide](#) page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please send an email to the Dean of Students deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation. **Students are expected to attend all classes.** No more than **two** unexcused absences are allowed.

Homework: You are expected to **read 12-15 pages in Italian** every week and to watch the Voice Threads and other media materials included in the syllabus. During the term, you will prepare **three** written synthetic analyses ("scheda di lettura") on some selected readings, and write **two** posts for each of the **four** forum assignments.

Oral Presentation: the presentation consists of an oral discussion of 8-10 minutes on a topic arranged with the instructor. The oral presentation develops the students' research skills as well as their ability to express themselves orally in Italian. Texts, graphics and other visuals materials may be used to support presentations. Reading directly from notes is not allowed (although students may use an outline). The evaluation of the presentation will be based on: a) preparation; b) content; c) clarity and d) fluency.

Quizzes: There will be **three** asynchronous quizzes during the semester.

Final Paper: Students write a final paper of 3-4 pages in Italian. No additional readings are required for the paper, but the essay must provide a critical analysis of a text and **NOT** limit itself to plot summary. The paper is to be submitted in MLA format (Font: Times New Roman 12-point; double-spaced; 1-inch margins on all sides; Quotes: if 1-3 lines, insert the text; if more than 3 lines, indent 1" and single space). Students must include page numbers. **Proofread** your work to catch grammatical errors, spelling errors, and typos **before** you hand it in. No rewriting is permitted.

The grade distribution is:

Presentation	15%
Quizzes	30%
Homework (Schede di lettura + Forum)	20%
Class Participation	15%
Final Paper	20%

The grading scale is:

90-100=A; 86-89=B+; 80-85=B; 76-79=C+; 70-75=C; 60-69=D; below 60=F

Language policy:

Italian is the language of instruction in this course and the use of English during the oral exams will adversely affect your grade.

Academic Integrity /Plagiarism:

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) on whole or in part. If you are in doubt, please consult the policy on plagiarism and academic integrity at Rutgers and do not hesitate to ask your instructor for clarifications.

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Student-Wellness Services:**Just In Case Web App**

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

[\(848\) 932-7884](tel:8489327884) / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / rhscaps.rutgers.edu/
CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts 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 & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

[\(848\) 932-1181](tel:8489321181) / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / vpva.rutgers.edu/
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. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call [848-932-1181](tel:8489321181).

Disability Services

[\(848\) 445-6800](tel:8484456800) / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/> The Office of Disability



Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

** Il presente programma è flessibile e soggetto a variazioni **

WEEK + ONLINE MEETING DAY	HOMEWORK TO DO BEFORE CLASS	TOPIC OF CLASS DISCUSSION	QUIZZES/ ASSIGNMENTS
I. Sept. 1		Introduction to the course	
II. Sept. 8	-Watch Voice Thread(s) -Read <i>Cantico delle Creature</i> and <i>S'io fossi foco</i> -Watch Greta Thunberg's Video until minute 3 (link from Youtube)	Poesia religiosa e poesia comica	Forum 1 (due Sep. 14)
III. Sept. 15	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from poeti stilnovisti	Il Dolce Stil Novo	
IV. Sept. 22	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from <i>Vita nova</i>	Dante	Scheda di lettura 1 (due Sept. 28)
V. Sept. 29	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from <i>Divina Commedia</i>	Dante	
VI. Oct. 6	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from <i>Divina Commedia</i> - Watch <i>Dante's Inferno</i> by Sandow Birk (on box.rutgers.edu)	Dante	Forum 2 (due Oct. 11) Quiz 1
VII. Oct. 13	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from	Petrarca	



	<i>Canzoniere</i>		
VIII. Oct. 20	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from <i>Canzoniere</i> and <i>Familiars</i>	Petrarca	Scheda di lettura 2 (due Oct. 26)
IX. Oct. 27	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from <i>Decameron</i>	Boccaccio	
X. Nov. 3	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from <i>Decameron</i> - Watch selected episodes from the Decameron by P.P. Pasolini (on box.rutgers.edu)	Boccaccio	Forum 3 (due Nov. 9) Quiz 2
XI. Nov. 10	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from Pico della Mirandola and Lorenzo il Magnifico - Watch an episode of "I Medici" (on box.rutgers.edu)	L' Umanesimo	
XII. Nov. 17	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from <i>Il Cortegiano</i> - Watch an episode of "House of Cards" (on box.rutgers.edu)	Castiglione	Forum 4 (due Nov. 23)
XIII. Nov. 24	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from <i>Il Principe</i>	Machiavelli	
XIV. Dec. 1	- Watch Voice Thread(s) - Read selections from <i>Orlando Furioso</i>	Ariosto	Scheda di lettura 3 (due Nov. 23) Quiz 3
XV. Dec. 8		Review	FINAL ESSAY

*I strongly encourage you to watch the Voice Thread before reading/studying the assigned pages.

** Online meetings and Oral Presentation will be on Zoom <https://it.rutgers.edu/zoom/> Please, register to this platform using your Rutgers account.

*** Schede di lettura and Final Essays should be uploaded in a Word Format on Canvas.