

RUTGERS
School of Arts and Sciences

Department of Italian
School of Arts and Sciences
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
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Twentieth Century Italian Literature

ALIENS, ITALO CALVINO, AND METEORITES:
ALL THE WONDERS OF ITALIAN SCIENCE FICTION



INSTRUCTOR: **ALBERTO IOZZIA** — alberto.iozzia@rutgers.edu

Summer 2018 — ONLINE CLASS, 3 credits — June 25th, 2018 — July 20, 2018

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course focuses on some examples of Italian Science Fiction. By reading several short stories, some comic books and one novel, we will explore a genre of Italian literature that is often and unjustly underrated. Many major Italian authors of the 20th Century have indeed chosen to use science fiction in their work, preferring it for its great lyricism or for its allegoric potential. In the next weeks, we are going to read — among others — Dino Buzzati, Ennio Flaiano, Italo Calvino, and Primo Levi.

SYLLABUS:

		Readings	Due dates and lessons
Week 1 6/25-7/1	Session 1 Images of the End	Secondo Lorenzini, <i>Ciò che accadde a noi tutti la notte del 9 settembre 190...</i> (1906)	Listen to lesson ONE: “Imagining the End: Apocalyptic Imaginary in Italian Science Fiction”
		Livio Horra, <i>Dove muore l’astragalo</i> (1971)	
THE BEGINNING IS ALSO THE END	Session 2 Images of the Future	Massimo Bontempelli, <i>Cataclisma</i> (1924)	Listen to lesson TWO: “Future, and Futurism: the Exciting Terror of Change”
		F. T. Marinetti, <i>Zang Tumb Tumb</i> (1914)	Questionnaire due 7/1
Week 2 7/2-7/8	Session 1 From Outer Space	Dino Buzzati, <i>Il disco si posò</i> (1954)	Listen to lesson THREE: “Aliens and Invasion Paranoia: Is it Weird for the Martians to Land in Rome?”
WE ARE NOT ALONE: ALIENS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE		Ennio Flaiano, <i>Un marziano a Roma</i> (1954)	

	Session 2 From Within	Dino Buzzati, <i>Il grande ritratto</i> (1960)	Listen to lesson FOUR: “Artificial Intelligence and G. J. Ballard’s Inner Space: What If the Threat Did Not Come From Outer Space?”
			Questionnaire due 7/8
Week 3 7/9-7/15	Session 1 Reverse Science Fiction	Italo Calvino’s <i>Le cosmicomiche</i> (1965) <i>Lo zio acquatico</i> <i>I dinosauri</i> <i>Un segno nello spazio</i> <i>Gli anni-luce</i>	Listen to lesson FIVE: “Laser Guns Not Included: Italo Calvino’s Leap into the Cosmos”
BACKWARDS, FLASH FORWARD: THE SCIENCE FICTION OF ITALO CALVINO AND PRIMO LEVI	Session 2 On the Universe	Primo Levi, excerpts from <i>Storie naturali</i> (1966) and <i>Vizio di forma</i> (1971)	Listen to lesson SIX: “What comes next: Primo Levi in the Afterwards”
			Questionnaire due 7/15
Week 4 7/16-7/20	Session 1 Graphic novels and comic books	Roberto Recchioni, <i>Orfani</i> (2013) Alfredo Castelli, <i>Martin Mystère</i> (1982) Antonio Serra, <i>Nathan Never</i> (1991)	Listen to lesson SEVEN: “Italian Science Fiction and Comic Books: a Very Long, Wonderful Story”
LASER GUNS AND BALLOONS: SERGIO BONELLI EDITORE’S SCIENCE FICTION			Final paper due 7/20

LIST OF LESSONS:

Consult Sakai Webpage of the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE BREAKDOWN:

FINAL PAPER (45%) — due date is **July 20, 11:55 PM**. 3-7 pages, double-spaced, times new roman 12; argument of the paper must be approved by the instructor. Upload your paper by the due date. You must use .doc or .docx format.

QUESTIONARI (40%) — due dates are July 1, July 8, July 15; these are open questions to be answered online, on Sakai (under the *Tests & Quizzes* Tab); there is NO time limit to complete the question, as long as the answer is submitted by the deadline.

BLOG (15%) — Each week, you are required (1) to post at least one original post by creating your own thread in the discussion forum; (2) to provide at least one response to someone else's post; (3) to reply at least to one of the comments on your own post. No grade is assigned until the minimum requirements are met. The due dates for your participation are 7/1, 7/8, 7/15 and 7/20. However, it is ideal that you log in the blog earlier than that, leaving your comments and creating your own threads.

%	LG
100-90	A
89-86	B+
85-80	B
79-76	C+
75-70	C
69-65	D
64-0	F

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND 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. Student-wellness service:

[HTTP://ACADEMICINTEGRITY.RUTGERS.EDU/INTEGRITY.SHTML](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml)

STUDENT-WELLNESS SERVICE:

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 / 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 / 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.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / 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