

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CSU Virtual International Program

ITL 351 THE PURSUIT OF ITALY: ITALIAN LITERATURE 1600-1900

Spring VIP 2020 – On line

Thu. 6pm – 7 pm (through March 27)

Thu. 7pm – 8 pm (as of March 30)

Office hours: On request

Prof. Leonardo Lastilla

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Credits – 3 CSU semester units.

Location of Course – California State University, Florence, Via G. Leopardi, 12, 50121 Florence, Italy

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the role played by literature in the formation of a national consciousness and will discuss key texts written to gain an insight into some of the issues, such as identity and language, which have most persistently dominated the Italian intellectual debates from the Baroque to Post-Risorgimento. By examining excerpts from some of the most important works in Italian literature from Basile to Nievo, with a specific emphasis on Romanticism, this course will analyze the development and shaping of the cultural and national identity of Italy. This course will count toward C1, C2, and/or C elective at Cal Poly

CSU GE CATEGORY: C1, C4 OR C ELECTIVE

2. REQUIRED BOOKS/READINGS

Brand, Peter, Pertile, Lino, The Cambridge History of Italian Literature, London Cambridge, 1999.

You can purchase it and download as ebook at:

<http://universitypublishingonline.org/cambridge/histories/ebook.jsf?bid=CBO9781139056175>

G. Basile, The Tale of Tales (Penguin Classics), Penguin, 2016

T. Campanella, City of the Sun: A Poetical Dialogue (Biblioteca italiana), University of California Press, 1992

G. D'Annunzio, Pleasure (Penguin Classics), Penguin, 2013

U. Foscolo, Last Letters of Jacopo Ortis (Hesperus Classics), Hesperus Press, 2002

U. Foscolo, Sepulchres and Other Poems (Oneworld Classics), Oneworld, 2009

G. Galilei, Selected Writings (Oxford World's Classics), Oxford University Press, 2012

G. Galilei, The Essential Galileo, Oxford University Press, 2012

C. Goldoni, Four Comedies, Penguin, 1968

G. Leopardi, Dialogue between Fashion and Death (Penguin Great Ideas), Penguin Classics, 2010

G. Leopardi, The Canti: With a Selection of His Prose, Carcanet Press, 1998

G. Leopardi, Zibaldone, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2015

A. Manzoni, The Betrothed, Penguin, 1984

I. Nievo, Confessions of an Italian (Penguin Classics), Penguin, 2014

M. Serao, Unmarried Women, Northwestern University Press, 2007

M. Serao, The Conquest of Rome, New York University Press, 1993

G. Verga, Cavalleria Rusticana and Other Stories (Penguin Classics), Penguin, 1999

G. Verga, I Malavoglia (the House by the Medlar Tree), Dedalus, 1996

G. Vico, New Science (Penguin Classics), Penguin 1999

All the material is on reserve in the library and can also be accessed on a digital format in internet. Additional readings and web resources may be given during the semester.

3. GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

For a better performance, a good attendance and participation at assignments is mandatory. In particular, reading one's textbooks as a regular home assignment is mandatory to develop one's knowledge appropriately.

Participation: Continuous lateness as well as leaving the class for long breaks without your instructor's permission definitely influences the evaluation of your participation. It is important that students come to class on time. Three delays/early departures will be considered one absence. A correct, active and responsible participation is strictly recommended. During lectures, students are not allowed to use any electronic devices (cell-phones, Ipad, Blackberry etc.). Use of the computer in class is restricted to oral presentations, unless previously approved by the professor. Note-taking is mandatory. Eating is NOT allowed in class. Cellular phones must be turned off or placed on *silent mode* during class.

You are responsible for the weekly readings, the information given to you in class, on handouts **and via email**. Part of your grade will be determined by regular attendance, participation in class discussions and active engagement in all activities of this course. ***Make sure to check your email on a regular basis for updates and additional information.***

4. CLASS SITE VISITS

Visits to museums and other institutions and sites are included in this course and you are required to attend all of them.

5. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will learn to gain an understanding of the historical, cultural and critical instruments that are necessary to analyze the literary styles that have typified Italian literature from Baroque to Verismo and to understand its characteristics.

6. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the semester students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of Italian literature.
2. Explain the way that literature reflects and forms spiritual, moral, and ethical values.
3. Utilize sophisticated critical thinking, research, discussion, and presentation skills.

Specifically, students are expected to attain the following exemplary educational objectives:

- Reading: to develop the skills of critical reading; to identify the author's narrative methods, intellectual/ideological assumptions, and apparent intentions; to identify strengths and weaknesses in method, representation, and (implied) argument.
- Discussion: to participate in meaningful, purposeful class discussions of the texts; to share ideas and insights, to identify and to answer important and relevant questions, to compare/contrast and to debate various interpretations and points of view.
- Writing: to discover, to clarify, to critique and to articulate one's ideas and interpretations and to improve one's writing skills by producing essays and papers on the texts.
- Personal: to relate specific course topics to one's own life experience and personal values, including the reasons for one's aesthetic likes and dislikes; to learn autonomy which means to manage and evaluate one's learning through the development of one's ability to search for, discover, understand and make constructive use of knowledge.

7. GRADES AND EXAMS

Weekly assignments and periodical papers: 15%

Midterm exam: 25%

Midterm Paper and Final Paper: 25% Students must also write two papers (5-7 pages max. including work cited; MLA format). The papers will be a serious attempt (i.e. an essay) to deal with a literary topic chosen by each student.

Final Exam: 30%

Extracurricular events activities: 5%

Both mid-term and final tests are questionnaires (short essays questions) based on the notes taken during the sessions and on the readings in the textbooks.

100-94	A
93-90	A-
89-88	B+
87-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-69	C-
68-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
59 and below	F

The + and - symbols will be used for grading (except for A+). Specific information about the paper, exams and other projects will be given to you during the semester. Late work will be penalized one grade notch (e.g., B- to C+) for each day it is late.

You must complete all work assigned in the course to pass the class.

A *Student performance has been outstanding and indicates an exceptional degree of academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

B *Student performance has been at a high level and indicates solid academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

C *Student performance has been adequate and indicates satisfactory academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

D *Student performance has been less than adequate and indicates deficiencies in meeting the learning outcomes and/or course requirements*

F *Student performance has been unacceptable and indicates a failure to meet the learning outcomes and/or course requirements*

VERY IMPORTANT: Failure to complete all work and exams assigned in the course could result in failure of the class.

8. CLASS CODE OF CONDUCT

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.

9. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus and also ask me and/ or the Resident Director for more information.

10. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Upon identifying yourself to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluations. For more information, contact the Resident Director.

11. ATTENDANCE

Attendance

For on-line classes, the teacher will track attendance through the Canvas portal.

Important: Exams

You must attend all exams and quizzes as scheduled. Make -up exams are given only for valid reasons. Please check your academic calendar **BEFORE** you book trips, flights and hotels.

12. COPYRIGHT AND PRIVACY LAWS

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used in any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.

13. CHANGES - IMPORTANT

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

14. CLASS CALENDAR

27 Feb: IN FLORENCE: Introduction of the course: Italy after the end of Renaissance. FLORENCE

Reading Assignments:

⇒ *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, pp. 286-302

5 Mar: No class : **Classes suspended today**

READING ASSIGNMENT TO RECUPERATE BEFORE March 19 (first on-line class)

Fragmented Italy: The Baroque FLORENCE

Reading Assignments:

- ⇒ *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, pp. 318-325
- ⇒ Basile, *How the Tales Came to be Told, The Flea, The Serpent, Goat-face, The Three Citrons, Pintosmalto, Corvetto, The Enchanted Doe, Cenerentola, Conclusion* in <http://www.timsheppard.co.uk/story/stories/pentamerone.html>
- ⇒ Clips from *The Tale of Tales* (2015) by M. Garrone

9-12 Mar: No classes : **ALL Classes suspended this week**

19 Mar: Italy meets Europe. The new theatre: Goldoni

Reading Assignments:

- ⇒ *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, pp. 353-361
- ⇒ Goldoni, *Venetian Twins and The Mistress of the Inn* in <http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=coo.31924074296884;view=2up;seq=20;skin=mob> ile, https://openlibrary.org/books/OL7030371M/Four_comedies, http://www.paololandi.it/theater/testi/VenetianTwins_eng.pdf, <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/33575/33575-h/33575-h.htm>

26 Mar: Enlightened Italy: Beccaria

Reading Assignments:

- ⇒ *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, pp. 378-380
- ⇒ Beccaria, http://www.constitution.org/cb/crim_pun.htm *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, pp. 398-405, 412-417

2 Apr: The hope of Italy. Romantic Autobiography and poetry: Foscolo part 1

Reading Assignments:

- ⇒ *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, pp. 412-417
- ⇒ Foscolo, *Sepulchres* on Canvas
- ⇒ Foscolo, *Poetry* in <http://litimag.oxfordjournals.org/content/4/1/17.extract>, <http://www.poemhunter.com/ugo-foscolo/>, <http://mellenpress.com/mellenpress.cfm?bookid=8706&pc=9>, <http://www.maneyonline.com/doi/abs/10.1179/ita.2008.28.1.162?journalCode=ita>

9 Apr: The hope of Italy. Romantic Autobiography and poetry: Foscolo part 2

Reading Assignments:

- ⇒ Foscolo, *Last letters of Jacopo Ortis on Canvas*

16 Apr: Romantic Italy: Leopardi's poetry

Reading Assignments:

- ⇒ *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, pp. 418-426
- ⇒ Leopardi, *To Italy, On the Proposal Monument to Dante in Florence, Sappho's last song, The Solitary Thrush, The Infinite, The Evening of the Holiday, To the Moon, To Silvia, Remembrances, Night song of a Wandering Shepherd of Asia, The Calm after the Storm, The Village Saturday, The dominant thought, Love and death, To Himself, The Broom in* <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/19315/19315-h/19315-h.htm>

Mid-paper due: 16/04/2020

23 Apr **Midterm exam**

30 Apr: Italy between Classicism and Romanticism: Leopardi's philosophical essays

Reading Assignments:

- ⇒ *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, pp. 418-426
- ⇒ Leopardi, *Dialogue between Fashion and death, Dialogue between Nature and an Icelander, Dialogue between an Almanac seller and a Passer-by, Dialogue between Ruysch and his Mummies* in https://archive.org/stream/cu31924027704877/cu31924027704877_djvu.txt leopardi or [http://www.forgottenbooks.com/download_pdf/Essays_and Dialogues of Giacomo Leopardi v1_1000191714.pdf](http://www.forgottenbooks.com/download_pdf/Essays_and_Dialogues_of_Giacomo_Leopardi_v1_1000191714.pdf)

7 May Manzoni "I promessi sposi": the question of a new language for a new nation.

Reading Assignments:

- ⇒ *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, pp. 427-439 440-449
- ⇒ Manzoni, Foreword and chapters 1-3, 6, 20-23, 26, 35 in <http://www.bartleby.com/21/>

14 May The Italian Risorgimento and the question of a national literature.

Reading Assignments:

- ⇒ Nievo, *Confessions of an Italian* chapters 1-3, 9-13, 16-23 on Canvas

21 May United Italy. Naturalismo, Positivismo and Verismo: Verga and Serao

Reading Assignments:

- ⇒ *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature*, pp. 457-479
- ⇒ Verga, Author's preface and chapters 1-4, 6, 9, 13-15 in <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/v/verga/giovanni/house-by-the-medlar-tree/>
- ⇒ Verga, *Cavalleria Rusticana, The She-Wolf, Jeli the Shepherd*
- ⇒ Serao *Unmarried Women* <https://epdf.pub/unmarried-women-stories-european-classics.html>
- ⇒ Serao *The Conquest of Rome* <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/46517/46517-h/46517-h.htm>

Final paper due: 21/05/2020

25 – 28 May Final exam. Exact day and time to be announced