

CLC 2132/ITA 2240 [Fall Term 2010]

# Italian Journeys

**Instructor:** Dr. Cristina Caracchini

**Classes:** Wednesday 10:30-12:30

## TENTATIVE

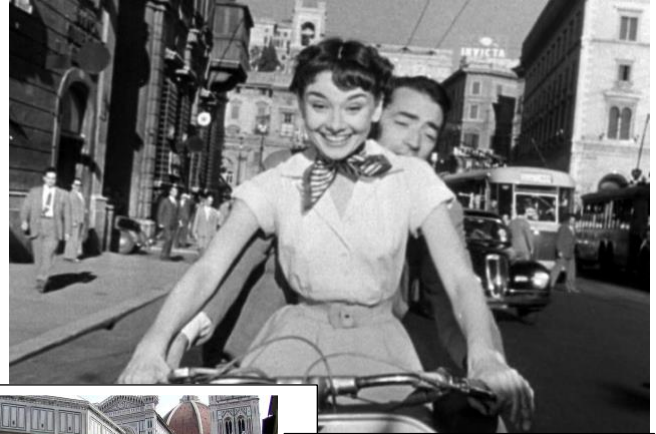
This syllabus will be adjusted based on the number of students enrolled in the course

### Contact Information:

Dr. Caracchini (ccaracch@uwo.ca)

Office hours: Wednesday, time TBA

On line, synchronous delivery



### Course Description

This course introduces students to the cultural mosaic of Italian regions and cities from two different perspectives: that of their natives and that of their tourists. We will travel through time and explore major capitals of Italian culture, such as Venice, Naples, Milan, and regions like Tuscany and Sicily in the years of their maximum artistic and literary splendor, and at crucial moments of their socio-political history. We will learn to recognize the work of artists such as Michelangelo, Da Vinci and Artemisia Gentileschi, whose masterpieces are paramount to the development of Western culture. Our journey will unfold along parallel paths. On the one hand we will be guided by famous travelers such as Goethe, Dickens, Proust, Stendhal, whose descriptions of the *Bel Paese* have framed the expectations of millions of tourists ever since; on the other, we will compare and contrast these famous travelogues with the images of travels and city life conveyed by locals, such as Marco Polo, Dante, Boccaccio, Basile, Verga, Aleramo. Films as James Ivory's *A Room with a View*, Soldini's *Bread and Tulips* etc, 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:

- Show familiarity with some specific cultural traits of each Italian city studied
- Know major events (in their historical and geographical contexts), crucial figures and main cultural achievements in Italian history, and their impact on Western culture;
- 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;
- Use different medias such as literature, visual arts, and music to build an understanding of a culture.

<b>MARK BREAKDOWN</b>	
<b>Please note:</b> the mark breakdown maybe be modified before the beginning of classes	
	Participation: 5%
	5 Forum posts: 10%
	2 Reading Responses: 30%
	Group Presentation (individual evaluation): 25%
	Exam: 30 %

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Readings for Italian Journeys will be available in Owl through the Course Readings tool, while 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.

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

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

Aleramo, S. *A Woman at Bay*. Forgotten Books, 2012.

Scarpa, T. *Venice is a Fish*. Avery, 2009.

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 at a later time. The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course outline and calendar.

### Participation

In this course, your attendance is mandatory. You are expected to complete the assigned readings before coming to class.

### Group Presentations:

You will take part in one oral presentation, 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), and how well your presentation complement and is organic to the other presentations of the members of your group.

### **Forum Posts**

Your posts (around 350 words), at times prompted by a question by the instructor, will have to show your understanding of the readings assigned weekly and your ability to explain the connections of such readings to the general theme of the course.

### **Reading Responses**

You will write two responses to questions that will be posted on Owl in the Assignments section one week before each submission date. The questions will address specific aspects of works and topics covered throughout the year. Each reading response should be no less than 900 words in length. N.B. Please use the MLA style for all written assignments (<https://style.mla.org/works-cited-a-quick-guide-video/>)

### **Final exam**

The final exam will 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.

### **Mental Health**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](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.

**Other Academic Matters:** [UWO Academic Calendar \(Academic Policies/Regulations\)](#).

The Department of Modern Languages and Culture Policies (which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in the department's courses) are available [here](#) It is your responsibility to understand these policies, and thus ignorance thereof cannot be used as grounds for appeal.