CLC 2292G/It 2240G Italian Journeys [2013-2014]

Instructor: Dr. Cristina Caracchini

TENTATIVE

Classes:  Monday 9:30-10:30
          Wednesday 9:30-11:30,
Anti-requisite(s): former CLC 2100/Ital 2100

Office hours: Wednesday 13:30-15:00.
E-mail: ccaracch@uwo.ca

Course description

This course introduces students to the cultural variety which defines Italian cities. We will explore three major capitals of Italian culture, Florence, Venice, and Naples, at the height of their greatest artistic and literary splendor and in crucial moments of their socio-political history. Our journey spans from the Renaissance to the present. For each city, we will highlight one fundamental contribution to the shaping of Western culture. Movies, literary readings, masterpieces of plastic and figurative arts, plays, historiography and political essays, documentaries and, in some cases, music will be our introductions to these cities.

We will encounter emblematic historical figures, crucial for the destiny of their city and beyond, such as Marco Polo and The Medicis, and will look at the reality of Patronage.

We will learn to recognize the work of artists such as Giotto, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Artemisia Gentileschi, Brunelleschi etc., who have beautified their urban landscape.

We will discuss the ideas of those who, with their writings, have described or shaped the modern and contemporary consciousness of these cities and of the Western world, like Machiavelli, Beccaria, Saviano,

The journey unfolds following the footsteps of illustrious travelers such as Goethe, Dickens, Stendhal and Forster, whose descriptions of the Bel Paese have watermarked the expectations of millions of tourists.

Instrumental in our exploration of these cities will be the theater plays by Goldoni and De Filippo and the images of:

James Ivory’s A Room with a View, Luchino Visconti’s Death in Venice, and Matteo Garrone’s Gomorrah which 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:

- 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.
- Explain the origin and development of the tourism industry.
- Know major events (in their historical and geographical contexts), crucial figures and main cultural achievements in Italian history and their impact on Western culture.
- Use different medias such as literature, visual arts, music to build an understanding of a culture.
The main focuses of our tour, developed city by city, will be:

I- FLORENCE: The Renaissance. Monuments and Visitors
II- NAPLES: The great Baroque painting. The people. The difficult present.
IV- VENICE: Historical and Imaginary. The Carnival.

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<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Mark breakdown</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor Cristina Caracchini</td>
<td>a. active participation 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Languages and Literatures</td>
<td>b. midterm 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>University College 258</td>
<td>c. group presentation 10%</td>
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<td>519.661.2111 [x.85897]</td>
<td>d. take home essay 20%</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ccaracch@uwo.ca">ccaracch@uwo.ca</a></td>
<td>e. final exam 30%</td>
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The four main thematic clusters will be organized according to the following thread (the list of required readings appears in detail on the course calendar):

I- FIRENZE: Towards the Renaissance. Monuments, Visitors


Italian voices from the past:

1a) Boccaccio, Decameron. (Selected pages)
1b) Machiavelli, The Prince. (Selected pages).
1c) (use of) Cesare Beccaria’s An Essay on Crimes and Punishment (Selected Pages)
2a) The Medicis.
2b) Brunelleschi, Botticelli and Michelangelo.
2c) Leonardo de Vinci

Documentary Screening: First Light: Tuscany and the Dawn of the Renaissance

Film Screening / External gaze: James Ivory’s A Room with a View

II- NAPOLI: A Fairy-Tale City and Its Difficult Present.

requires external gaze:
1) Goethe. *Italian Journey*. (Selected pages)
2) Dickens. *Pictures from Italy*. (Selected pages)

Modern Italian Voices:
2) Anna Banti, Artemisia Gentileschi

Local voices from the past:
Gianbattista Basile, *Il pentamerone*. (Selected stories)

Film screening: Garrone’s *Gomorrah*, 2008

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** IV- VENEZIA: Historic and Imagined **

Film Screening: *Venezia.*

Modern Italian Voices:
1) Tiziano Scarpa. *Venice is a Fish.*

Local voices from the past:

Film Screening: Visconti. *Death in Venice.*

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** N. B.: The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course outline and calendar.**

Bibliography:

A *READER* prepared by the instructor and the following books will be available at the Campus Bookstore


Scarpa, Tiziano. *Venice is a Fish*. Serpent’s Tail. 2009.


Attendance and Participation:

Students are expected to maintain regular attendance and participate actively in class. Should you miss a class, you will be responsible for inquiring with your classmates in order to keep up with the course. Cellular phones must be turned off during class. Laptops can be used for the sole purpose of taking notes. Use of laptops for purposes other than taking notes (i.e., to access the Internet, check email, watch videos, play games, etc.) is distracting to the instructor and to other students and will not be tolerated. Text messaging during class is disruptive and is strictly not allowed.

Prerequisites

Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded and that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) that they have taken. If the student does not have the requisites for a course, the University reserves the right to remove the student from the course and to delete it from the student’s record. This decision may not be appealed. A student will receive no adjustment to his or her fees in the event that he or she is dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else’s verbatim or paraphrased text in one’s own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against a possible charge of plagiarism. This also applies to work facilitated or written for students by third parties. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

Absenteeism

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

UWO’s Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm)
Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): https://studentservices.uwo.ca under the Medical Documentation heading