

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON  
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES**

**FALL 2009**

**ITALIAN 3335  
SURVEY OF ITALIAN LITERATURE**

**Prerequisite Italian 2302 (Taught in English / Written work in Italian)  
For Italian Studies Majors**

**ITALIAN 3336  
ITALIAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION  
CORE CURRICULUM COURSE**

**No Italian prerequisite (Taught in English / Written work in English).  
For Italian Studies Minors**

**Monday – Wednesday, 1:00pm – 2:30pm – AH 11**

**Prof. Alessandro Carrera  
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – 418 AH by appointment  
Tel.: (713) 743-3069 <Alessandro.Carrera@mail.uh.edu>**

**TEXTBOOKS**

- 1) VIVANTE (ed.) *Italian Poetry: An Anthology from the Beginning to the Present* (Delphinium Press 1996); ISBN 0-962-0305-1-1
- 2) DANTE, *The Divine Comedy* Trans. Mandelbaum  
*Inferno*, Bantam 1982 – ISBN: 0-553-21339-3
- 3) CONAWAY BONDANELLA & MUSA (eds.) *The Italian Renaissance Reader* (New American Library 1987) ISBN: 0-452-01013-6
- 4) MANZONI, *The Betrothed*, Trans. Penman (Penguin Classics 1984): ISBN: 978-0140442748
- 5) VERGA, *Cavalleria rusticana and Other Stories*, Trans. G. H. McWilliam (Penguin Classics 2000); ISBN: 978-0140447415

Additional Xeroxed material will be provided by the instructor

Grading:           10% participation, preparation  
                      30% midterm test  
                      30% book report  
                      30% final exam (requiring complete reading of Manzoni's *The Betrothed* and Verga's *Stories*)

Italian 3335 and Italian 3336 are taught concurrently. Lectures, readings, and class discussion will be conducted in English. The course will survey the development of Italian literature from the Middle Ages to the 20<sup>th</sup> century focusing on Italy's most significant contributions to Western literature and culture. Readings and lectures will center on the 14th century writers (Dante, Boccaccio and Petrarca), the Renaissance (Machiavelli, Ariosto, Tasso), major authors of modernity (Foscolo, Manzoni, Leopardi) and authors of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Pascoli, D'Annunzio, Verga).

ITAL 3335 - Prerequisites: ENGLISH 1303 and ITAL 2302. Students majoring in Italian Studies will be required to read the literary texts in Italian when available. Italian majors will also be required to write the paper and the book report in Italian.

ITAL 3336 - Prerequisite: ENGLISH 1303. Students minoring in Italian Studies will conduct all required work in English. Students who do not pursue a major or a minor in Italian Studies will conduct all required work in English.

### Requirements

Attendance is mandatory. More than four absences, if not substantially motivated, put the student at risk of being dropped out. Students are expected to complete the reading assignments before the following class and bring the textbooks that are required. Students are expected to answer questions about the texts and participate in the discussion. Papers are due on time. There will be two exams (Midterm and Final) and one book report on a contemporary novel.

### Learning Outcomes

- Students will become conversant with the development of Italian Literature and will be able to relate it to the historical and political situation of Italy and Europe from the Middle Ages to the present times.
- Students will be able to demonstrate analytical and critical skills when discussing literature and its importance in the history of a nation.
- Paper assignments will enable students to improve their writing skills.

### Library

Many classic and contemporary novels are available at the Anderson Library, both in Italian and in English translation, as well as critical literature about Italian contemporary authors.

### A great help for writing papers in Italian:

In the Linguistic Lab both IBM and Mac computers are provided with a Spelling Check in Italian.

### Optional (for additional research):

DANTE, *Purgatory*, Bantam 1982 - 0-553-21344-X

DANTE, *Paradise*, Bantam 1982 - 0-553-21204-4

BRAND – PERTILE (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Italian Literature* (Cambridge UP 1996, now in paperback); ISBN 0-5216662-2-8

BOCCACCIO, *The Decameron*, Musa - Bondanella eds. (Mentor-New American Library 1982); ISBN 0-451-62134-4; or William ed. (Penguin 1995), or Usher - Waldman ed. (Oxford Classics 1999);

MACHIAVELLI, *The Mandragola*, Waveland Press 1981; ISBN 0-917974-57-3

GOLDONI, *The Servant of Two Masters* (Ivan R. Dee Publisher, 2003); ISBN 1566635365.

## Italian 3335-3336 Survey of Italian Literature in Translation Weekly Schedule

### **I. August 24-26: St. Francis – Guinizzelli.**

Influences on early Italian literature: Latin tradition, Medieval Latin, troubadour lyric (doctrine of "fin'amor"). Religious poetry: St. Francis. Dramatic character of the *Lauda*. Jacopone da Todi. The Sicilian School. Lyric poetry in Bologna and Tuscany. Guido Guinizzelli: from courtly love to spiritual love. Female Poetry: Compiuta Donzella.

**Readings:** St. Francis, *Laudes Creaturarum*; Guido Guinizzelli, *Within the Gentle Heart*.

Compiuta Donzella: *Sonetto I and II*.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 3-21.

### **II. August 31- September 2: Cavalcanti – Dante.**

Cavalcanti: Love as Passion and Malady. Dante: Love as Salvation. The *Vita nova*. Dante's life and early works. Dante's love for Beatrice. The Angel-Woman in the "Dolce Stil Novo" tradition. Dante's philosophic and political thought. His defense of vernacular language.

**Readings:** Guido Cavalcanti, *Ballata I and II*. Dante: *Sonetti I, II, III* from the *Vita nova*.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 22-27; 39-54.

### **III. September 7-9: Dante.**

Structure of the *Divine Comedy*. Dante's journey to salvation.

**Readings:** *Inferno*, Cantos: I, II, III, IV, V (73-142), XXVI (43-142), XXXIII (1-90), XXXIV.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 54-69.

### **IV. September 14-16: Dante.**

Structure of the *Divine Comedy*. Dante's journey to salvation.

**Readings:** *Inferno*, Cantos: I, II, III, IV, V (73-142), XXVI (43-142), XXXIII (1-90), XXXIV.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 54-69.

### **V. September 21-23: Petrarca.**

Petrarch and the Humanism. His works: *Canzoniere*, *Trionfi*, *Secretum*. Themes of Petrarch's lyrics. From Beatrice to Laura.

**Readings:** *Sonetti I, II, III, IV* from the Vivante Anthology. *Canzone I and II* from the Vivante Anthology. Handouts.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 89-107.

### **VI. September 28-30: Boccaccio.**

His life and works. *Decameron's* narrative frame.

**Readings:** from *Decameron*: I, 1 (Ser Ciappelletto); I, 3 (Melchisedech and Saladin); II, 5 (Andreuccio da Perugia); III, 1 (Masetto da Lamporecchio); IV, 5 (Elisabetta and the Pot of Basil); V, 8 (Nastagio degli Onesti); V, 9 (Federigo degli Alberighi); VI, 4 (Chichibio); VI, 9 (Guido Cavalcanti); VI, 10 (Brother Cipolla); VIII, 3 (Calandrino and the Heliotrope); X, 10 (Griselda and the Marquis of Saluzzo).

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 70-88.

**Decameron Web:** [http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian\\_Studies/dweb/dweb.shtml](http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Italian_Studies/dweb/dweb.shtml)

**VII. October 5-7: Machiavelli.**

Florence and the Humanists: enthusiasm for classics, philological and scholarly study. Man at the center of the universe. Lorenzo il Magnifico, Marsilio Ficino, Pico della Mirandola, Angelo Poliziano. Machiavelli and the beginning of modern political science: fortune and virtue in *The Prince*. Castiglione's perfect courtier: Renaissance's ideal man.

**Readings:** Introduction and Chapters VI, VII, XV, XXV, XXVI from *The Prince*.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 131-143; 188-195.

**VIII. October 12: Ariosto. October 14: Mid-Term Test**

Pulci's ironic interpretation of the epic tradition: *Morgante*. Boiardo's new epic cycle: *Orlando innamorato*. The Renaissance spirit in Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*, Angelica and Orlando, Astolfo's adventure on the moon. Michelangelo and the Spirit of Neoplatonism. Women Poets.

**Readings:** Ariosto: Excerpts from *Orlando furioso*; Michelangelo: *La notte*; V. Colonna: *Sonetto*; G. Stampa: *Sonetto*.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 167-174; 233-239; 260-266.

**IX. October 19-21: Tasso.** The Counter-Reformation age and Tasso's *Jerusalem Delivered*.

**Readings:** Excerpts from Tasso's *Jerusalem Delivered*, Cantos XII (Tancredi and Clorinda), and XVI (Rinaldo and Armida).

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 240-250; 266-268.

**X. October 26-28: Foscolo.**

The 17th century. Giordano Bruno and the new idea of the universe. Galileo Galilei's scientific method. Vico's new science: a universal view on the development of nations. The 18th century and the Age of Reason: Goldoni's theatre, Parini's satire, Alfieri's tragedy, Beccaria's criticism of torture and death penalty.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 315-317; 347-350; 355-361; 378-398.

Between Neoclassicism and Romanticism: Foscolo's poetry and prose.

**Readings:** U. Foscolo, "Alla sera", *On Sepulchers*.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 399-405; 412-417.

**XI. November 2-4: Leopardi.**

Romanticism and anti-romanticism in the young Leopardi. Leopardi's *Canti*, his thought and poetry. Leopardi's *Moral Tales*. Leopardi's "cosmic pessimism" and his legacy.

**Readings:** *The Infinite, To the Moon, To Silvia, Night Song of a Wandering Shepherd, The Broom or the Flower of the Desert*.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 418-426.

**XII. November 9-11: Manzoni.**

The young Manzoni. His Parisian years. His conversion to Catholicism. Politics, religion and poetry. *Adelchi*. *The Betrothed*: the first national-popular Italian novel. The role of Manzoni in creating the national and linguistic identity of Italy.

**Readings:** Manzoni: *The Fifth of May, The Death of Ermengarda*. Excerpts from *The Betrothed* and *Letter on Romanticism*.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 427-439.

**XIII. November 16-18: Manzoni.**

Excerpts from *The Betrothed*.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 427-439.

**XIV. November 23: Pascoli and D'Annunzio (November 25: Thanksgiving).**

The turn of the 19th century: Pascoli's poetry; D'Annunzio's poetry and prose.

**Readings:** Pascoli: *Sea*, *The Fallen Oak*, *Italy*; D'Annunzio: *The Evening at Fiesole*.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 459-479.

**XV. November 30- December 2. Verga.**

Verga's "Verismo." His rediscovery of rural Sicily.

**Readings:** Verga's *Cavalleria rusticana*, *The She-Wolf*, and other short stories.

**Cambridge History of Italian Literature:** pp. 459-479.

**Final Exam: Friday, December 8, 2:00-5:00pm**