

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

FALL 2009

ITALIAN 3396
SELECTED TOPICS IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND LITERATURE

MUSIC AND LYRICS

ITALIAN SONGWRITERS

Paolo Conte – Fabrizio De Andrè
Gino Paoli – Luigi Tenco

Prof. Alessandro Carrera

Taught in Italian – Cr. 3 (3-0)
Monday – Wednesday 4:00pm – 5:30pm – 304 AH
Tel (713) 743-3069 - <Alessandro.Carrera@mail.uh.edu>
<<http://www.class.uh.edu/mcl/>>

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – 418 AH by appointment

Description and Requirements

Songwriters such as Conte, De Andrè, Paoli, and Tenco, to mention only few of them, are a very significant part of the Italian cultural landscape of today. Italy has always enjoyed a tradition of significant song artistry stretching from the Middle Ages to the present time. This course focuses on four major songwriters from the last fifty years, who have been instrumental in creating a new song genre that sustains a high level of poetic and musical sophistication without losing its mass appeal. By studying the poetry, music, and the voice of Conte, De Andrè, Paoli, and Tenco, the students will gain a new and fresh approach to Italian language, culture and society.

No textbooks are required. Reading material will be provided by the instructor. Students will listen to the songs in class and will have access to a WebCT page where the songs will be posted in MP3 files. Frequent, short response paper, and workshop activities will replace conventional tests and exams.

Prerequisite: Italian 2302 or consent of instructor. Attendance is a must. Three absences or more, if not sufficiently justified, put the student at risk of being dropped. Students are expected to be prepared for class. Papers are due on time.

If you love music, this will be a fun class!

Italian 3396 Music and Lyrics: Italian Songwriters Weekly Schedule

I. August 24-26:

Introduction – Songs and Society in Italy in the Post-World War II period.

II. August 31- September 2:

Luigi Tenco – The Early Sixties; a new approach to love songs.

III. September 7-9:

Luigi Tenco – The Late Sixties and his “protest” songs.

IV. September 14-16:

Gino Paoli – The Early Sixties; a new approach to love songs

V. September 21-23:

Gino Paoli – Songs from the Seventies to the present time.

VI. September 28-30:

Paolo Conte – Stories and portraits from the provincial life.

VII. October 5-7:

Paolo Conte – The influence of jazz and Latin American music in his songs.

VIII. October 12-14:

Fabrizio De Andrè – The Early Songs - *La buona novella* - A concept album based on the non-canonical Gospels.

IX. October 19-21:

Fabrizio De Andrè: *La buona novella*.

X. October 26-28:

Fabrizio De Andrè: *Non al denaro, non all'amore né al cielo* – A concept album based on Edgar Lee Masters' *Anthology of Spoon River*.

XI. November 2-4:

Fabrizio De Andrè: *Non al denaro, non all'amore né al cielo*.

XII. November 9-11: [Guest speaker: prof. Luca Cerchiari]

Fabrizio De Andrè: *Creuza de mă* – A concept album based on Genoese dialect and the cultures of the Mediterranean.

XIII. November 16-18:

Fabrizio De Andrè: *Creuza de mă - Le nuvole* – An experiment in multilingualism.

XIV. November 23 - 25 Thanksgiving

Fabrizio De Andrè: *Le nuvole - Anime salve* – His last album.

XV. November 30- December 2:

Fabrizio De Andrè: *Anime salve*

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