



LT 354 – LOVE, DEATH AND SOCIAL STIFE IN ITALIAN FICTION, 1820 - 1920
IES Abroad Rome

DESCRIPTION:

The course will follow the development of the modern Italian novel, concentrating on its ability to express a world constantly oscillating between tradition and necessary innovations, history and the future, the weight of society and family ties and the birth of modern individuality. Love affairs, weddings, adulteries, secular and religious issues, the Risorgimento, social discomfort, the rise of the bourgeoisie, the struggle of the lower classes: a series of topics and thematic links will be used and analyzed through the entire course to highlight similarities and differences between the writers and the novels, and to delineate the main patterns of Italian literary history. Students will read major works that represent the basis of a good knowledge of Italian fiction and that belong to the Italian cultural background and education.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Italian

INSTRUCTOR: Antonella Maglione

PREREQUISITES: at least a B2 level of Italian language proficiency (placement test required)

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures, class discussions, analysis of the texts (language and structure), historical and social background, comparative analysis with novels and texts from different works

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Class participation - 10%
- Analytical papers - 25%
- Midterm exam - 25%
- Oral presentation - 15%
- Final exam - 25%

Class Participation

Active and thoughtful participation in class that demonstrates the student's preparedness for class, engagement with material, and enhance the conversational skills in Italian.

Analytical Papers

1-2 pages (500-1000 words), prompted. Students will be asked to answer prompts that address key themes from the course; they will be required to find details/significant patterns among the text, comparing authors' techniques, make and support an argument in response to the prompt using more than one text studied in class as well as additional readings.

Midterm Exam

Multiple choices, short answer and essay questions, conducted in-class. Multiple choices questions will ask the students to choose among options referring to literacy techniques. The short answer questions will ask students to explain concepts or historical backgrounds discussed in the first part of the semester. The longer essay question will ask students to discuss recurring themes by drawing connections between multiple texts and supporting their thoughts with analysis of scenes or examples.

Oral Presentation

Students will be asked to prepare a power point (or similar) presentation choosing among prompts, focusing on one of the authors and following detailed instructions given by the professor.

Final Exam

Multiple choices, short answer and essay questions, conducted in-class. Multiple choices questions will ask the students to choose among options referring to literacy techniques. The short answer questions will ask students to explain concepts or historical backgrounds discussed during the whole semester. The longer essay question will ask students to discuss recurring themes by drawing connections between multiple texts and supporting their thoughts with analysis of scenes or examples.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 1	General introduction to the course content and calendar	<i>Guida alla composizione</i>, Come leggere un testo letterario, pag. 1-10
Session 2	Historical context and the Italian literature among 1820 and 1920 Introduction of Romantic realism	<i>Letteratura Letterature</i>, Il contesto storico pag.328-354 <i>Guida alla composizione</i>, La cultura romantica e il mito della storia, pag. 95
Session 3	Towards Italy: Romanticism and the Historical Novel Alessandro Manzoni and <i>I promessi sposi</i> (<i>The Betrothed</i> 1827)	- Capitolo 1 de <i>I promessi sposi</i> (1st part) <i>Letteratura Letterature</i>, Alessandro Manzoni 380-395
Session 4	The language of the Italian novel	<i>I promessi sposi</i> (A. Boglia, R. Poncino), Le ragioni dell'insuccesso europeo, pag.733-735 - Capitolo 1 de <i>I promessi sposi</i> (2nd part)
Session 5	Towards Italy: Romanticism and the Historical Novel (part 2) Romantic realism: morality and the art of fiction	<i>I promessi sposi</i> (A. Boglia, R. Poncino), Il patto narrativo pag. 7-8 <i>Guida alla composizione</i>, Il modello dell'amore romantico, un'eccezione: <i>I promessi sposi</i>, pag. 99 - Capitolo 12 de <i>I promessi sposi</i> (1st part)
Session 6	History and fiction: narrating the past to understand the present	<i>I promessi sposi</i> (A. Boglia, R. Poncino), Le pagine come schermo e le tecniche di rappresentazione, pag. 29-30 e 51-54 - Capitolo 12 de <i>I promessi sposi</i> (2nd part) Short paper 1/5 due <i>Descrivi le tecniche del romanzo storico di Manzoni.</i>
Session 7	Writing in a New Nation: Realism, Naturalism, Verismo	<i>Letteratura Letterature</i>, Narratori realisti, veristi, regionali in Italia, pag. 191 <i>Letteratura Letterature</i>, Poetiche del naturalismo e del verismo, pag. 56-71

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 8	Fiction as a laboratory of truth: Populism and dramatic history Giovanni Verga: an introduction to his life and work	<i>Letteratura Letterature</i>, Giovanni Verga, pag. 338-358 <i>Letteratura Letterature</i>, Giovanni Verga, pag. 361-73
Session 9	Writing in a New Nation: Realism, Naturalism, 'Verismo' (part 2)	<i>Letteratura Letterature</i>, Giovanni Verga, pag. 391-439
Session 10	Giovanni Verga: an introduction to his life and work (part 2) - Giovanni Verga, <i>Novelle rusticane</i>, (Little Novels of Sicily - stories, circa 1883) - primitivism and social struggle	<i>Libertà</i> (da <i>Novelle rusticane</i>) Short paper 2/5 <i>Quali elementi della vita quotidiana vengono rappresentati nelle pagine lette di Verga?</i>
Session 11	Midterm Review	Review course content (professor's presentations and readings) of the first part of the semester
Session 12	Midterm Exam	
Session 13	Italian 'Fabulism'; regional fiction, universal fiction	<i>Letteratura Letterature</i>, Scrittori per l'infanzia, pag. 236-242
Session 14	New Italy: a children's book about real people, real dreams, delusions and escape Carlo Collodi, <i>Pinocchio</i> (1883): theater, fairy tales, reality. The fantastic.	<i>Collodi e Pinocchio: la favola senza tempo</i>. Rai Cultura (https://www.raicultura.it/storia/articoli/2019/01/Le-avventure-di-Pinocchio-La-favola-senza-tempo-e1cd4068-1d23-491a-a246-c77267c20393.html)
Session 15	Italian 'Fabulism'; regional fiction, universal fiction (part 2)	Oral presentations
Session 16	Carlo Collodi, <i>Pinocchio</i> (1883): the story among the chapters <i>Pinocchio</i>: the fortune	<i>Collodi e Pinocchio: il percorso di conoscenza di Pinocchio</i>. Rai Cultura (video) <i>Pinocchio eroe di legno</i>, pag. 1-13 (PDF) - Capitoli 1-2-12 Short paper 3/5 <i>Quali elementi della vita quotidiana e sociale vengono descritti attraverso la favola?</i>

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 17	A New Beginning, a New Century Luigi Pirandello: life and works	<i>Letteratura Letterature</i>, Luigi Pirandello, pag.368-395 e 412-435
Session 18	Humor, theater and the novel: modern identity and ancient ties	<i>Il fu Mattia Pascal</i>, capitoli 1 e 2 (Premessa 1 e 2)
Session 19	A New Beginning, a New Century (part 2)	<i>Il fu Mattia Pascal</i>, capitolo 8
Session 20	Luigi Pirandello, <i>Il fu Mattia Pascal</i> : the manifold soul of the modern man; acting and living, role-playing and daily life <i>Il fu Mattia Pascal</i> the character among the chapters	<i>Il fu Mattia Pascal</i>, capitoli 15, 18 Short paper due 4/5 <i>L'uomo moderno: caratteristiche de Il fu Mattia Pascal.</i>
Session 21	Moderenism and the Italian self	<i>Letteratura Letterature</i>, Italo Svevo, pag.450-467
Session 22	Italo Svevo, <i>La coscienza di Zeno</i> (<i>Zeno's Conscience</i> 1923) : Italian and European fiction Italo Svevo: life and works	<i>La coscienza di Zeno</i>, capitoli 1-2-3
Session 23	Modernism and the Italian self (part 2)	<i>Letteratura Letterature</i>, Italo Svevo, pag.468-489 <i>La coscienza di Zeno</i>, capitolo 6
Session 24	Italo Svevo, <i>La coscienza di Zeno</i> : the story - The history of a liar who cannot quit talking: self-analysis, writing and the novel - Fiction and metafiction	<i>La coscienza di Zeno</i>, capitolo 8 Short paper 5/5 <i>Il "narratore inattendibile": la lingua della bugia a confronto con Manzoni e Verga</i>
Session 25	Final Review	Review course content (professor's presentations and readings) from the entire semester
Session 26	Final Exam	

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Collodi, Carlo. *Pinocchio* Feltrinelli 2014.
- Manzoni, Alessandro, (a cura di A. Broglia e R. Poncino), *I promessi sposi*, Markes 1992
- Pirandello, Luigi. *Il fu Mattia Pascal*, Mondadori 2020
- Svevo, Italo. *La coscienza di Zeno*, Feltrinelli 2014.

- Verga, Giovanni. *Novelle rusticane*, in *Tutte le Novelle*, Newton Compton Editori 2018
- R. Luperini, P. Cataldi, L. Marchiani, F. Marchese, *Il nuovo la scrittura e l'interpretazione volume 2. Guida alla composizione*, Palumbo editori 2014.
- G. Armellini, A. Colombo, *Letteratura Letterature. Antologia F, Secondo Ottocento*, Zanichelli 2005
- G. Armellini, A. Colombo, *Letteratura Letterature. Antologia G, Primo Novecento*, Zanichelli 2005
- G. Armellini, A. Colombo, *Letteratura Letterature. Guida storica 2, dal tardo cinquecento al primo Ottocento*, Zanichelli 2005
- V. Bonanni, *Pinocchio eroe di legno*, disponibile online su <https://journals.openedition.org/cei/1040>

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- R. Luperini, P. Cataldi, L. Marchiani, F. Marchese, *Il nuovo la scrittura e l'interpretazione volume 4 e 5*, Palumbo editori 2014 (only few chapters available on moodle)

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:

Antonella Maglione graduated from the University "La Sapienza" of Rome in Foreign Languages and Literatures (with a linguistic thesis on the relation between language and thought, and on translation difficulties due to culture differences). She obtained her summa cum laude Master's Degree in Linguistic and Translation Studies and then got a Professional Master's Degree in Advanced Planning for Teaching the Italian Language and Culture to Foreigners at Ca' Foscari University in Venice. She worked as languages courses coordinator at the Erasmus office of Sapienza University of Rome, and still coordinates the language courses for foreign students and teachers of the Music Conservatory Santa Cecilia of Rome. Recently she obtained the Higher Education Teaching Certificate from Harvard University. Since 2012 she has been teaching Italian language and culture at IES Abroad - Rome Center where she is also the Italian language program coordinator.