



LT 333 THE GRAND TOUR OF TUSCANY IN LITERATURE
IES Abroad Siena

DESCRIPTION:

The aim of this course is to analyze the *Grand Tour* as it took shape in Italy from the XIX century to the contemporary period, especially referring to the representation of Siena and Tuscany in Anglo-American literature. Students are introduced to the object of research and its socio-historical and cultural contexts, in addition to the literary one. Students are also provided with literary methodology and conceptual tools (concepts of culture/identity, creation/narration, representation/inner projection, and stereotyping process). The course covers selections from books by writers such as E. M. Forster, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Francesca Alexander, Henry James, George Eliot, D. H. Lawrence, Iris Origo, Mary McCarthy, Anne Fortier, Kate Simon, and Hisham Matar. The structure and the format of the course have the students methodologically draw the maximum advantage from the local context.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures (including PowerPoint projections), film analysis, seminar discussions, and student presentations.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Participation -10%
- Post 1 -5%
- Paper 1 -10%
- Midterm Exam -30%
- Post 2 -5%
- Paper 2 -5%
- Oral presentation -5%
- Final Exam -30%

Participation

Active class participation and class discussions

Post 1

4,000-character post on a forum about the question of the identity of Italians

Paper 1

3-4 page paper based on the comparison between two texts considered before the midterm exam (contingent on professor authorization)

Midterm Exam

Written midterm exam in the form of essay-style answers

Post 2

4,000-character post on a forum concerning the visit to the museum of sharecropping



Paper 2

3-4 page paper on a topic chosen by student (contingent on professor authorization)

Oral Presentation

Oral presentation of Paper 2

Final Exam

Written final exam in the form of essay-style answers

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- develop skills to critically evaluate literary works per se and in their contextual connotations;
- identify the main themes of important *Grand Tour* literary works;
- identify and analyze the sequence of the different Anglo-American literary representations of Italy referring in particular to Siena and Tuscany and with special attention to peoples' imagery, cultural identity, and stereotypes concerning both literature and culture;
- identify, through comparative textual analyses, traits and features in various authors in order to stress similarities and differences;
- analyze the historical and sociopolitical contexts of the authors and imagery in question;
- recognize the evolution, if there is one, in the literary representation of Italy connected with the *Grand Tour*, especially referring to Siena and Tuscany.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Successful progress of the program depends on the full cooperation of both students and faculty members: regular attendance and active participation in class are essential parts of the learning process. Attendance at and participation in all class meetings are required. IES Abroad Siena allows a maximum of TWO excused absences per semester. Each additional absence will automatically result in a penalty of 2 percentage points off the final grade for each unjustified absence and 4 percentage points for a scheduled academic day trip. SEVEN absences per course (including 2 excused absences) will result in a failing grade for that course. Furthermore, an absence on the date of scheduled tests, presentations or quizzes does not entitle you to recover/reschedule such tests. Failure to attend your midterm and/or final exam will result in an F grade on that paper/exam.

Please be aware that the sequence and therefore the objects of the content, particularly regarding the course-related trips, as well as the assignments related to the visits, may vary and be subject to modifications depending on the local context.

CONTENT:

Weeks	Content	Assignments
Weeks 1-2	The page numbers refer to the course-packet. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction to the course.- Literary theories: concepts and tools.- The Unity of Italy.- The <i>Grand Tour</i> in Italy and Tuscany: stereotypes, perception, and imagination.	<i>Readings:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wayne C. Booth, from <i>The Rhetoric of Fiction</i> (pp. 3-5).• Denis Mack Smith, from <i>Modern Italy</i> (pp. 7-9).• Alice Leccese Powers, Introduction to <i>Italy in Mind</i> (p. 13).• Susan Cahill, Introduction to <i>Desiring Italy</i> (p. 14).• <i>Overtures</i>: Vita Sackville-West, Flora Lewis, Kate Simon, and Erica Jong (p. 15).• <i>The North</i>: Claudia Roden and Virginia Woolf (pp. 15-16).

Weeks	Content	Assignments
Weeks 3-4	- Siena in the <i>Grand Tour</i> . - E. M. Forster. - Projection and analysis of some sequences of James Ivory's film <i>A Room with a View</i> .	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attilio Brilli, from <i>English and American Travellers in Siena</i> (pp. 197-249). E. M. Forster, from <i>A Room with a View</i> (pp. 16-34 and 270-272). Guy Watts, Introduction to <i>A Room with a View</i> (pp. 35-39).
Week 5	- The Unification of Italy. - Elizabeth Barrett Browning. - Francesca Alexander.	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Barrett Browning, from <i>Casa Guidi Windows</i> (p. 43). Elizabeth Barrett Browning, <i>Bellosguardo</i>, from <i>Aurora Leigh</i> (p. 44). Francesca Alexander, from <i>Roadside Songs of Tuscany</i> (pp. 44-45). - Moodle activity: forum about the question of the identity of Italians.
Weeks 6-7	- Henry James. - Projection and analysis of some sequences of Jane Campion's film <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> . - Tuscany, the cradle of Renaissance. - George Eliot.	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Henry James, from <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> (pp. 49-53 and 273-280). Henry James, from <i>Italian Hours</i> (pp. 53-64). Lyall H. Powers, from <i>The Portrait of a Lady. Maiden, Woman and Heroine</i> (pp. 67-70). George Eliot, from <i>Romola</i> (pp. 73-75). - Submission of the paper based on the comparison between two texts considered before the midterm exam (Week 7).
Week 8	- D. H. Lawrence. - Course-related trip: visit to the archeological museum in Siena.	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Massimo Pallottino, Foreword to <i>Etruscan Places</i> by D. H. Lawrence (pp. 78-84). D. H. Lawrence, from <i>Etruscan Places</i> (pp. 85-91). Giovanni Kezich, <i>Lawrence in Etruria: Etruscan Places in Context</i> (pp. 92-95).
Week 9	- Midterm Exam.	
Week 10	- Spring Break.	

Weeks	Content	Assignments
Week 11	- Italy and Tuscany from Unification to the IWW and IIWW. - Fascism and Mussolini. - Course-related trip: visit to the museum of sharecropping in Buonconvento.	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denis Mack Smith, from <i>Modern Italy</i> (pp. 98-102). • Iris Origo, from <i>Images and Shadows</i> (pp. 105-107). • Iris Origo, from <i>War in Val D'Orcia</i> (pp. 107-110 and 281-282). - Moodle activity: forum concerning the visit to the museum of sharecropping.
Week 12	- Mary McCarthy. - Anne Fortier.	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary McCarthy, from <i>The Stones of Florence</i> (pp. 113-115). • Alan Dundes and Alessandro Falassi, from <i>La Terra in Piazza</i> (pp. 118-121). • Anne Fortier, from <i>Juliet</i> (pp. 250-269).
Week 13	- Joseph Brodsky. - Matthew Spender.	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph Brodsky, from <i>A Part of Speech</i> (pp. 124-125). • Matthew Spender, from <i>Within Tuscany</i> (pp. 128-130). - Submission and oral presentation of the paper on a topic chosen by student.
Week 14	- Hisham Matar.	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hisham Matar, <i>A Month in Siena</i> (pp. 133-194).
Week 15	- Final Exam.	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- visit to the archeological museum in Siena;
- visit to the museum of sharecropping in Buonconvento.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- **Course-packet** (texts and selections):

Alexander, Francesca. Roadside Songs of Tuscany, in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. Ed. Susan Cahill. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Booth, Wayne C. The Rhetoric of Fiction. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.

Brilli, Attilio. English and American Travellers in Siena. Roma: De Luca Editore (Monte dei Paschi di Siena), 1987.

Brodsky, Joseph. A Part of Speech, in Italy in Mind: An Anthology. Ed. Alice Leccese Powers. New York: Vintage, 1997.

Browning, Elizabeth Barrett. Casa Guidi Windows and Bellosguardo, in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. Ed. Susan Cahill. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Cahill, Susan. Introduction, in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Dundes, Alan and Alessandro Falassi. La Terra in Piazza: An Interpretation of the Palio of Siena. Siena: Nuova immagine, 1994.

Eliot, George. Romola. Ed. Andrew Brown. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Forster, Edward Morgan. A Room with a View. Rapallo: CIDEB, 1993; chapter II, in Italy in Mind: An Anthology. Ed. Alice Leccese Powers. New York: Vintage, 1997; chapter XX, in A Room with a View. New York: Penguin Books, 2000.

Fortier, Anne. Juliet: A Novel. New York: Ballantine Books, 2011.

James, Henry. Italian Hours, in Collected Travel Writings, Vol. 2. New York: Literary Classics of the United States, 1993.

---. The Portrait of a Lady. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981; chapter XXIV, in Italy in Mind: An Anthology. Ed. Alice Leccese Powers. New York: Vintage, 1997.

Jong, Erica. My Italy, in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. Ed. Susan Cahill. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Kezich, Giovanni. "Lawrence in Etruria. Etruscan Places in Context," in David Herbert Lawrence. Etruscan Places. Eds. Giovanni Kezich and Marco Lorenzini. London: Olive Press, 1986; Siena: Nuova immagine, 1986.

Lawrence, David Herbert. Etruscan Places. Eds. Giovanni Kezich and Marco Lorenzini. London: Olive Press, 1986; Siena: Nuova immagine, 1986.

Leccese Powers, Alice. Introduction, in Italy in Mind: An Anthology. Ed. Alice Leccese Powers. New York: Vintage, 1997.

Lewis, Flora. Europe: A Tapestry of Nations, in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. Ed. Susan Cahill. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Mack Smith, Denis. Modern Italy: A Political History. London: Yale University Press, 1997.

Matar, Hisham. A Month in Siena. New York: Penguin Books, 2019.

McCarthy, Mary. The Stones of Florence, in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. Ed. Susan Cahill. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Origo, Iris. Images and Shadows, in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. Ed. Susan Cahill. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

---. War in Val D'Orcia: An Italian War Diary 1943-1944, in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. Ed. Susan Cahill. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Pallottino, Massimo. Foreword, in David Herbert Lawrence. Etruscan Places. Eds. Giovanni Kezich and Marco Lorenzini. London: Olive Press, 1986; Siena: Nuova immagine, 1986.

Powers, Lyall H. The Portrait of a Lady. Maiden, Woman and Heroine. Boston: Twayne, 1991.

Roden, Claudia. The Food of Italy, in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. Ed. Susan Cahill. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Sackville-West, Vita. Letters, in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. Ed. Susan Cahill. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Simon, Kate. "The Subject Is Eating" and "Siena" (from Italy: The Places in Between, New York: HarperCollins, 1984), in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. Ed. Susan Cahill. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Spender, Matthew. Within Tuscany, in Italy in Mind: An Anthology. Ed. Alice Leccese Powers. New York: Vintage, 1997.

Watts, Guy. Introduction, in Edward Morgan Forster. A Room with a View. Rapallo: CIDEB, 1993.

Woolf, Virginia. A Writer's Diary, in Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. Ed. Susan Cahill. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Bloom, Harold (ed.). E. M. Forster. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1987.

Cahill, Susan (ed.). Desiring Italy: Women Writers Celebrate the Passion of a Country and Culture. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Gabaldon, Diana. "Review of Anne Fortier's novel 'Juliet,' a riff on 'Romeo and Juliet,'" The Washington Post, September 4, 2010.

Genette, Gérard. Narrative Discourse Revisited. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1990.

Greene, Graham. Introduction, in Henry James. The Portrait of a Lady. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981.

Leccese Powers, Alice (ed.). Italy in Mind: An Anthology. New York: Vintage, 1997.

---. (ed.). Tuscany in Mind. New York: Vintage, 2005.

Mack Smith, Denis. Introduction, in Iris Origo. War in Val D'Orcia: An Italian War Diary 1943-1944. Boston: David R. Godine, 1984.

Porte, Joel (ed.). New Essays on The Portrait of a Lady. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Simon, Kate. Italy: The Places in Between. New York: HarperCollins, 1984.