Italian 3553: Survey of Italian Literature and Culture I

(Fall 2015)

Professor Dr. Jason Houston
Office: 103c Kaufman Hall
Office Hours: 10-12 T/TH
email: jason.houston@ou.edu

TR: 3-4:15
Classroom: Felgar 320
Office Phone: 325-2428

Course Description

This course will survey the history of Italian literature and culture from the early development of the Italian language in the 13th century up to the beginning of the 17th century. Students will read selected texts of the Italian literary tradition in order to develop a foundational understanding of literary traditions that have constructed “Italian” identity(ies). Students will also read selected secondary readings to facilitate an understanding of historical, political, and cultural contexts.

Course Objectives

Students will acquire greater ability in three core areas of language competency: reading comprehension and written expression, and oral expression.

Students will develop techniques for “close reading” and careful analysis of highly rhetorical texts.

Students will gain a broad understanding of the literary, cultural, historical, and philosophical currents of Medieval and Renaissance Italy.

Course Grading

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiegazione del testo</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Exam II</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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Course Texts

A course packet is available at King Copy (2 vols.). Materials will be posted on D2L.

Any Italian/English dictionary
Programma del lavoro

La nascita della letteratura italiana

I
Introduzione e Francesco d’Assisi, “Cantico di Frate Sole”
La Scuola Siciliana
(Camb. 5-25)

II
Il Novellino  (Camb. 28-36)
Il Novellino

Il Trecento: La fioritura della lingua volgare

III
Guido Guinizelli, Al cor gentil
Guido Cavalcanti, Donna me prega

IV
Dante, La Vita Nova (Camb. 39-46)
La Vita Nova (spiegazione del testo)

V
Commedia, Inf. I, II
Giovanni Boccaccio, Il Decameron (Camb. 70-72)

VI
Il Decameron (Camb. 76-85)
Il Decameron

VII
Esame I
Francesco Petrarca, Il Canzoniere (Camb. 89-104)

Il Rinascimento fiorentino

VIII
Francesco Petrarca, Il Canzoniere
Agnolo Firenzua, Della bellezza delle donne (Camb. 152-67)

IX
Agnolo Firenzua, Della bellezza delle donne
Della bellezza delle donne

X
Machiavelli, La Mandragola (Camb. 188-93, )
Mandragola

Il Rinascimento cortile

XI
Esame II
Castiglione, Il Libro del Cortegiano

XII
Cortegiano (202-223)
Cortegiano

XIII
Ariosto, Orlando Furioso (233-40)
Course Policy

1. Italian 3553 will be conducted in Italian. The use of English in class will result in severe penalties to your participation grade.
2. Attendance is mandatory and will make up part of your attendance and participation grade. An excessive amount of unexcused absences (4) will dramatically reduce your grade. Students are evaluated according to contributions to class activities, interaction with other students, and evidence of preparation of materials and practice outside class. Students are expected to study the assigned material before the next class. Grading will follow these guidelines.
   A Student volunteers answers at almost every class meeting and participates enthusiastically in classroom activities. The student prepares well for each meeting, uses recently introduced material correctly and creatively, and attends class regularly.
   B Student volunteers answers regularly and participates well in class activities. The student prepares well and attempts to use new material. The student makes an excellent effort, but assimilates the material inconsistently.
   C Student answers appropriately when called on, participates in classroom activities, attends class regularly, and prepares adequately for class meetings. Assimilation of material is not very good: some answers in class are incorrect, but students can arrive at correct answer when prompted.
   D Student rarely volunteers or answers questions, does not prepare for class adequately, and participates minimally. However the student does attend class regularly.
   F Student cannot respond to questions, is unprepared for class, attends sporadically and demonstrates no interest in classroom activities.
3. Your packet will include the texts to be read in Italian and, in some cases, in English. You are free to consult English translations of any of the readings. You will also complete the assigned readings for the classes prior to the class.
4. There will be two midterms and a final exam. These exams will include the following elements: textual identifications, short answer, essay.
5. Each student will turn in weekly response papers on topics assigned during the week. This is like a journal or response paper that will be keyed to the readings.
6. There will be periodic in-class quizzes over the reading from the *Cambridge Companion to Italian Literature* and to the “Glossario” from the packet.
6. Each student will team with another student (assigned by the professor) to present and introduce an author to the class. This presentation should be 15-20 minutes and include these basic facts: biography, works, and importance in the history of Italian literature.

**University Policies**

1. **Students with disabilities:** The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodations in this course are requested to speak with the professor as early in the semester as possible. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations in this course. The Office of Disability Services is located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 405/325-3852 or TDD only 405/325-4173

2. **Academic Misconduct (Read Carefully)**
   “Academic misconduct includes (a) cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; (b) assisting others in any such act; or (c) attempts to engage in such acts.” Student Code Book, p. 21 **Students should be aware that academic misconduct entails severe penalties and may result in suspension from the university.**