

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2019-2020 ITAL 340 A: Post-war narratives – an Italian post-war trajectory.
(Fall Term)

Instructor: W. Anselmi
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Time: Tue/Thu. 14:00-15:20
Place: 2-29 Humanities
Office Hours: Thu. 15:30-16:30
or by appointment
Course Website: N/A

Course Prerequisite: Ital 212 or consent of department

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
 - See explanations below
 - Document distributed in class
 - Other (please specify)
- X s NA

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

Italy has always been a work in progress and a geo-political experiment throughout its history. So we must ask: what is this thing called *Italy*? We shall attempt a quantum (fluctuating) answer through various discursive practices: poetry, painting, music and cinema from 1943 onward. Together with selected excerpts from Umberto Eco (articles), Elio Vittorini (*Conversazione in Sicilia*), Italo Calvino (*Le città invisibili*), Primo Levi (*Se questo è un uomo*), these representations will provide a trajectory from 1943 to 2019 introducing the participants in this (dis)course to the on-going development of the many identities of Italy and Italy's resonance in the contemporary world. The course, in Italian,

requires “narrations”: the actual involvement of the participants in his/her reading of Italy as we move through what emerges and *blooms* at the end of WWII as the Italy under scrutiny. All students at the end of the course will have a critical and complex understanding of Italy so that the various stereotypes such as the “pizza, spaghetti, mandolino” or “Italy, a postcard” will not be part of any future conversations. This process of critical discovery will become indispensable in making sense of the contemporary world as well. Ital 340, because of its structure, can be divided into five historical moments or periods as will be encountered in our critical journey:

Resistenza (Resistance: the Holocaust; the armed struggle against the Nazi-Fascist occupation of Italy proper, 1943-1947)

Ricostruzione (The reconstruction after WW II best illustrated by Pier Paolo Pasolini’s poem: *Le ceneri di Gramsci*, 1956) (1945-1958)

Boom Economico (What is known as the Economic Boom or Economic Miracle, 1958-1963)

‘68/77- (Maybe Italy’s most creative period in all aspects of its life, some call it *gli anni di piombo* (The Lead Years) (1968-1983)

Mani Pulite and the present (From the scandal of the Nineties to the rise and fall of Matteo Salvini: emptiness made sovereign (1983-2019)

This course, of course, can also act as a pleasurable framework (R. Barthes) for *Ital 205 Winter 2020* or any course dealing with our liquid world (Z. Bauman).

Texts:

The following is a list of the various text and references that shall be useful in class; most are available on the Internet. The following five **films** will be made available through eclass:

Francesco Rosi – *La tregua* **RESISTENZA**

Dino Risi – *Il sorpasso* **RICOSTRUZIONE/BOOM ECONOMICO**

Luciano Salce – *Fantozzi* **‘68/77**

Giuseppe Ferrara – *Il caso Moro* **68/77**

Nanni Moretti – *Habemus Papam* **MANI PULITE**

Painting selections: Alberto Burri, Lucio Fontana, Renato Guttuso

Cartoon artist selections: Andrea Pazienza, Jacovitti, Angela e Luciana Giussani

RAI Television: *Carosello* (popular commercials from the Sixties onward)

Music:

Modena City Ramblers - *Bella Ciao*

Giovanna Marini: *Lamento per la morte di Pasolini*

L. Dalla: *Il comunista*

F. De Gregori – *Titanic; W l'Italia*

A. Venditti - *Lilly*

C. Lolli - *Ho visto anche degli zingari felici*

Fabrizio De Andre' – *Anime salve*

Literature (available online as pdf)

Conversazione in Sicilia – Elio Vittorini (pdf)

Le città invisibili – Italo Calvino (pdf)

Le ceneri di Gramsci – PierPaolo Pasolini (pdf)

Se questo è un uomo – Primo Levi (pdf)

Pape Satan Aleppe; Cronache di una società liquida– Umberto Eco (selection of articles, to be posted on eclass)

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 3, 2019

Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019

50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019

Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019

Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019

Final Exam Date (if applicable): N/A

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:
[https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations \(Exams\)](https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations)

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

ATTENTION: Students will be able to choose one (1) of the two menus: Classic or Cool:

CLASSIC:

Final essay (due: second last week of class) 20%

- Author’s biography 200 words
- Text context 200 words
- Text analysis 700 words
- Text critical conclusion 200 words

Presentation (20m + 10m discussion) 20%

Dossier (1 entry per week, 200 words; due: last week of class) 20%

Primary reflection (why take the course, due: 12/09/2019) 10%

Final reflection (how was the course, due: 28/11/2019) 10%

Participation: Class 15 + Chosen path 5 (plan; due: first 2 weeks of class] 20%

OR

COOL:

Skype talks – report on 1 of the 5 guests’ talk (due: 28/11/2019) 20%

Language analysis (in English) of linguistic aspect of any of the texts
(due: 28/11/2019) 10%

Text analysis (article, poem, film, song, painting, cartoon, book -
due : second last week of class) 20%

Journal (1 entry per week, 200 words) (due: last week of class) 20%

Critical course reflection (due 28/11/2019) 10%

“La mia Italia” (personal description, narration of/about Italy –
oral: 20m +10m discussion) 20%

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2019-2020 academic year can be found at the following site:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2019-winter-2020-exam-planner>

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

The choice offered the student in terms of the avenue: **Classical** or **Cool**, takes into account the singular abilities of the diverse student body favouring all potentials. Those who prefer writing an essay are given such a possibility broken down into its various components. If the student is more inclined towards the narrational style the “La mia Italia” component in the Cool menu allows the student to pursue such an avenue. The choices should then be able to dispel any fear that after two years of language training one needs more to continue in Italian. Language is not simply a collection of rules, language is, at the very moment one breathes life into words, a plethora of links from images to ideas to people coming alive in each word. Reducing the experience of Italian to the fear of failure in using a subjunctive or a *passato remoto* is being anchored to the security of the typical binary system: right/wrong. Italian, like all other languages, requires the certainty of stepping out of that binary security and embracing the creative confusion of the dialogue and confrontation of multiple voices and visions that strengthens one’s cultural background in learning a language that is always a confrontation with a national culture and a literature. Given this, students who would make theirs the Cool menu will find that their desire for linguistic knowledge can be revealed in the component “Language analysis”. Atypically, the language to be used for work in this piece is English so that the student will be able to freely express himself/herself critically about any particular Italian linguistic expression found in any of the texts to be used in class, from dialectical interventions to figurative language to creative usage of the grammatical level, to puns and/or any rhetorical device. Such reflections dispel the fear and give strength to one’s pursuit of what we love as Italian, beside the usual stereotypes of crime, soccer, il Rinascimento, archeological ruins, food, beauty (*La grande bellezza*), and music (Opera). Our Skype guests are the following: Dr. Claudio Brancaleoni (Università’ di Perugia), Mary Di Michele (Concordia), Dr. Manuel Anselmi (Viterbo), Luigi Viva (Roma), Rodolfo Ricci (Filef, Roma).

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and

honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, participation is mandatory

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension with no penalty. All assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is:
<https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility

Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

"MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale"

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-
	A	4.0	100
	A-	3.7	93-96
			90-92

<p>Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p>	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
<p>Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
<p>Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-59

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