



Department of Foreign Languages
<http://www.kennesaw.edu/foreignlanguage>

ITALIAN 3200
Critical Reading and Applied Writing
SPRING 2008

INSTRUCTOR & COURSE INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dr. Federica Santini
Section: M,W 11:00-12:15, EB 268
Office Location: PS 249
Office Hours: By Appointment
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CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Critical Reading and Applied Writing in Italian. Prerequisite: Italian 2002 or the equivalent. This course emphasizes skill development and refinement in the areas of critical reading and writing in Italian. Designed to give students extensive experience in reading and writing in Italian, the course focuses on the relationship between writing and reading, and on ways to improve one through the other.

SPECIFIC THEMES OF THE COURSE:

In this course, students will focus on Italian folklore, superstitions and traditions, analyzing Italian contemporary culture in its relation to traditional values. They will read and analyze brief works by some of the major Italian 19th- and 20th-century authors, from classics such as Luigi Pirandello, Gabriele D'Annunzio, and Italo Calvino to contemporary writers such as Carlo Lucarelli, concentrating on their elaboration and transformation of previous literary and/or cultural traditions and studying the social environments they represent as a means to better understand Italian life and society.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

In order to assure a variety of readings from diverse sources, all materials will be posted on WebCT-Vista or provided in class by the instructor. You will be provided with texts of different kinds, including short stories, poems, news articles, images, etc. Make sure to bring a substantial folder to class to collect and organize all materials.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course will contribute to the attainment of the following general (GSLO) and specific (SSLO) student learning outcomes of the B.A. in Modern Language & Culture (ML&C):

ML&C GSLO 1: LANGUAGE, LINGUISTICS, & COMPARISONS

Learners are proficient in using the target language, are familiar with the target language system, and seek opportunities to further develop their skills and knowledge. (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes)

ML&C SSLO 1a: Demonstrating Language Proficiency

Learners demonstrate a high level of proficiency in the target language, and they seek opportunities to strengthen their proficiency. (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes)

To address this outcome, learners will:

- Improve their reading skills by reading and analyzing crucial, diverse texts in the target language.
- Acquire and practice different learner-centered reading strategies.

Assessment:

- In class reading activities and comprehension exercises.
- Evaluation of exams that include reading comprehension questions.

To address this outcome, learners will:

- Improve their writing skills by producing different types of written commentary of the texts being analyzed.
- Acquire and practice different learner-centered writing strategies.
- Learn to perfect and polish their writings by working on edited drafts.

Assessment:

- Review of the learners' impromptu writings produced in class.
- Evaluation of first and final drafts of learners' writings researched and produced at home.
- Evaluation of learners' analyses and commentaries produced during the Midterm and Final Paper.

ML&C SSLO 1b: Understanding Linguistics

Learners know the linguistic elements of the target-language system, recognize the changing nature of language, and accommodate for gaps in their own knowledge of the target-language system by learning on their own. (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes)

To address this outcome, learners will:

- Analyze a variety of texts, coming in contact with diverse lexical and syntactical structures.
- Reflect on the development of the Italian language by reading and analyzing works belonging to different historical periods.
- Discuss the significance of using writing styles specific to different texts.

Assessment:

- Targeted activities on the structures present in the texts being analyzed.
- Close editing of the writings produced by the learners during class activities, home assignments, and exams.

ML&C SSLO 1c: Identifying Language Comparisons

Learners know the similarities and differences between the target language and other languages, identify the key differences in varieties of the target language, and seek opportunities to learn about varieties of the target language on their own. (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes)

To address this outcome, learners will:

Contrast and compare target language with native language.

Assessment:

Accurate use of target forms in speaking and writing classroom activities, midterm and in the final paper

ML&C GSLO 2: CULTURES & LITERATURES

Learners know the literature and culture of the target language countries. They use this knowledge to interpret and reflect upon the perspectives of the target culture in relation to its practices and products. (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes)

ML&C SSLO 2a: Demonstrating Cultural Understandings.

Learners demonstrate that they understand the connections among the perspectives of a culture and its practices and products. (Knowledge, Skills)

To address this outcome, learners will:

Reflect upon the practices and products of the target culture by discussing, reading and investigating issues related to the target culture. Work with literary texts and realia that are representative of different cultural aspects of the target culture.

Assessment:

Cultural components in reading assignments and classroom presentations; active participation in class discussions; cultural components of written materials and papers.

ML&C SSLO 2b: Demonstrating Understanding of Literary and Cultural Texts and Traditions.

Learners recognize the value and role of literary and cultural texts and use them to interpret and reflect upon the perspectives of the target cultures over time. (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes)

To address this outcome, learners will:

- Read, study, and analyze a wide variety of texts of different periods and genres.
- Discuss and reflect on the cultural implications of the texts being read.
- Connect the themes that emerge from the readings with wider issues present in Italian culture and society.
- Acquire a deeper idea of the ever-changing culture of Italy.

Assessment:

- Two oral presentations in which the learners will present their perspective on the literary and cultural issues being studied.
- Weekly assignments, reports, and exams.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE (Subject to change as necessary):

WEEK	DATES	TOPICS TO BE COVERED	OTHER INFORMATION
Week 1	Aug. 18-24	Introduction: Italian culture between tradition and modernity. A general overview: Italian sayings, beliefs, and tongue twisters.	
Week 2	Aug. 25-31	Spinning tales: traditional fables and stories. Introduction to the Italian folktale.	

Week 3	Sep.1-7	Readings from Italo Calvino's <i>Fiabe Italiane</i> ,	Mon. Sep. 1: Labor Day, NO CLASS Discuss Presentation Topic with instructor
Week 4	Sep. 8-14	Readings from Luigi Capuana's <i>Novelle</i> , and Guido Gozzano's <i>Favole</i> .	Written Assignment 1
Week 5	Sep. 15-21	A character fighting superstition: Luigi Pirandello's <i>La patente</i>	
Week 6	Sep. 22-28	A character fighting superstition: Luigi Pirandello's <i>La patente</i> , continued.	Sept. 24: Presentation 1
Week 7	Sep. 29- Oct. 5	A character immersed in superstition: Gabriele D'Annunzio's <i>L'eroe</i>	
Week 8	Oct. 6-12	A character immersed in superstition: Gabriele D'Annunzio's <i>L'eroe</i> , continued	Oct. 10: Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty
Week 9	Oct. 13-19	A character working with superstition: excerpt from Carlo Levi's <i>Cristo si è fermato a Eboli</i>	Oct. 13: Midterm Exam
Week 10	Oct. 20-26	A character working with superstition: excerpt from Carlo Levi's <i>Cristo si è fermato a Eboli</i> , continued	
Week 11	Oct. 27- Nov. 2	Towards modernity: superstitions and traditions still alive in 20th Century Italy.	
Week 12	Nov. 3-9	Excerpts from Federico Fellini's films <i>Le tentazioni del Dottor Antonio</i> and <i>Le notti di Cabiria</i> .	Written Assignment 2
Week 13	Nov. 10-16	Contemporary spins on ancient superstitions: Carlo Lucarelli's <i>La tenda nera</i>	Discuss Presentation Topic with instructor
Week 14	Nov. 17-23	Carlo Lucarelli's <i>La tenda nera</i> , continued	
Week 15	Nov. 24-30	Excerpt from Eraldo Baldini: in "Bambini, ragni e altri predatori"	Nov. 26-30: Fall Break - NO CLASSES
Week 16	Dec. 1-3	Course Conclusions	Presentation 2

FINAL COURSE GRADE:

The course grade for Italian 3200 will be determined as follows:

Homework: 10 %

Written Assignments (2): 20%

Oral Presentations (2): 20%

Midterm: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Grading Scale: 100-90%=A; 89-80%=B; 79-70%=C; 69-60%=D; 59% and below=F

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

DISABILITY POLICY:

Kennesaw State University provides program accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons identified as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. A number of services are available to help the disabled. Students must visit the office of Disabled Student Support Services (770-423-6443) and arrange an individual assistance plan. In some cases, certification of disability is required.

HOMEWORK:

Homework, including brief reports, readings, and short compositions, will be assigned after each meeting and unless otherwise stated will be due the following class. No credit will be given for late homework. For every missing homework assignment, 2 points (out of 100) will be taken from the homework grade.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be two thematic, 3-page written assignments. Missing either of them will result in the loss of 50 points (out of 100) towards the written assignments grade. You will be able to turn in a first draft of each assignment and then to follow up on corrections and suggestions for a final draft, which will be graded based on creativity, adherence to the theme proposed, and grammar accuracy. Making an effort to present a personal, creative work will result in a higher grade.

EXAMS:

There will be two oral presentations, a midterm exam, and a final paper. For the presentations, each student will speak for five minutes on an Italian text other than the ones analyzed in class. The student should also be ready to answer classmates' questions regarding the text being presented. The text will be chosen by the

student but previously agreed upon with the instructor (feel free to contact your instructor to ask for suggestions for your text choice).

Reminders:

All tests are cumulative, i.e. they cover all material discussed to date.

Students are responsible for all announcements and assignments made in class, even if not listed on the syllabus. Students must find out if any announcements or assignments were made in class during their absences.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:

- Students are expected to attend all classes, to arrive on time and to remain in class for the entire one hour and fifteen minutes. There are no “excused” absences; for each absence in excess of two, one point will be deducted from the student’s final grade average. In other words, a student may miss two class meetings without penalty.
- Classes will start on time. If a student is habitually late, the instructor reserves the right to determine if a tardy constitutes an absence.
- Class time will be used to develop all four basic skills (listening comprehension, speaking, reading comprehension, and writing) and culture. However, a special emphasis will be put on speaking. Students are expected to study and practice at home as part of their daily preparation.
- All assignments, whether written or oral, are to be finished by the time class begins. No late homework will be accepted. Emergencies will be handled on an individual basis.
- No make-up tests or assignments will be given. A grade of “O” will be assigned for all work not turned in or any tests not taken. There will be no “extra credit.” Emergencies will be handled on an individual basis.
- All compositions must be one page, double-spaced. They may be hand written (if legible) or typed. **Students may not use a translator program in writing compositions, nor may they seek help from a native speaker.**
- Turn OFF all cell phones, beepers, pagers and any other potentially disruptive noise makers when you arrive in class.