



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

ITALIAN 4402
CONTEMPORARY CULTURE
FALL 2009

INSTRUCTOR & COURSE INFORMATION:

Course/Section	Day/Time	Classroom	Instructor	Office	E-mail
ITAL 3303/1	MW 11:00-12:15	UC 225	Dr. Santini	PS 249	fsantini@kennesaw.edu

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

ITAL 4402: Prerequisites: ITAL 3303 and ITAL 3306 or permission of the instructor. An examination of the historical, social and political contexts of the contemporary Italian experience through the analysis of different cultural representations such as film, media, plastic arts, music and literature. Readings and discussion in Italian.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Trame. A Contemporary Italian Reader, Ed. by C. Abbona Sneider, A. Borra, and C. Pausini
Additional materials will be posted on WebCT or provided in class. Make sure to bring a binder and keep materials organized.

Registration to the site: www.garzantilinguistica.it (online vocabularies, grammatical tables, etc.).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the semester, the student will be able to:

- Understand concepts related to the formal study of culture
- Understand the various perspectives of Italian culture according to other world regions
- Apply various cultural concepts to the analysis of contemporary Italian cultural representations, practices and products from Italy within their historical, social and political contexts.
- Interpret appropriately the underlying ideological framework of Italian cultural representations, practices and products.
- Develop communication skills in Italian at an advanced proficiency level.

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):

GSLO ML&C 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**)

SSLO ML&C 1.a: 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

- participate in class discussion on selected essays;
- discuss in groups selected movies, painting/posters, songs, newspapers, poems and short stories;
- research topics related to the course content via websites in the target language.

Learners are expected to speak in connected discourse using a variety of time frames and vocabulary appropriate to the topic and use extra-linguistic support as needed to facilitate audience comprehension (e.g. visuals).

Assessment:

- Short presentations on previously assigned topics related to the course content
- Final presentation

GSLO ML&C 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**)

SSLO ML&C 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

- study concepts from various cultural theories;
- read selected essays on the relation between Italian culture and politics.

Assessment:

- Presentations
- group activities
- final project

SSLO ML&C 2.b.: 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

- Analyze ideas and critical issues of contemporary Italy from selected movies, paintings/posters, songs, newspapers, poems and selections of fiction
- Research a selected topic and analyze its visual/written representations

Assessment:

- In-class short essays
- Pair and group activities
- Final project

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE (Subject to change as necessary):

WEEK	DATES	TOPICS TO BE COVERED	OTHER INFORMATION
Week 1	Aug. 17-19	Introduction to the course and preliminary activities. (Course cultural threads + choosing a specific cultural topic for each student) Family Life and Youth Culture Introductory activities: <i>Caterina va in città</i> (film excerpts)	
Week 2	Aug. 24-26	→Students' topic presentation Ch. 32: Paolo Virzì, <i>Caterina va in città</i>	
Week 3	Aug. 31-Sep. 2	Ch. 22: Aldo Nove, <i>Storia di Roberta;</i> <i>Storia di Luigi</i>	
Week 4	Sep. 9	Ch. 10: Paolo Crepet, <i>I figli non crescono più</i>	Monday Sep. 7: Labor Day - No classes
Week 5	Sep. 14-16	Politics and Society →Students' topic presentation Ch. 3: Alessandro Baricco, <i>Next</i>	
Week 6	Sep. 21-23	Ch. 4: Stefano Benni, <i>Il bar di una stazione qualunque</i>	Paper 1 assigned
Week 7	Sep. 28- 30	MIDTERM Roberto Saviano, <i>Gomorra</i> (film excerpts)	
Week 8	Oct. 5-7	Ch. 26: Roberto Saviano, <i>Gomorra</i>	
Week 9	Oct. 12-14	Immigration →Students' topic presentation Ch. 19: Melania G. Mazzucco, <i>Vita</i>	October 12: Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty
Week 10	Oct. 19-21	Ch. 16: Pap Khouma, <i>Sposatemi, sono una principessa</i>	
Week 11	Oct. 26-28	Ch. 33: Laila Wadia, <i>Amiche per la pelle</i>	Paper 2 assigned

Week 12	Nov. 2-4	Women's Voices →Students' topic presentation Ch. 17: Elena Loewenthal, <i>Lo strappo nell'anima</i>	
Week 13	Nov. 9-11	Ch. 29: Patrizia Valduga, <i>Per amore di Dio, amore caro; Dove sono le pere moscatelle?</i>	
Week 14	Nov. 16-18	Ch. 31: Simona Vinci, <i>In viaggio con le scarpe rosse</i>	Discussion of Final Project with the instructor
Week 15	Nov. 23	Ch. 8: Patrizia Cavalli, <i>Aria pubblica</i>	November 25-29: Fall Break, NO CLASSES, Wednesday – Sunday
Week 16	Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Course conclusions FINAL PRESENTATIONS	Thursday, December 3: Last Day of Classes

FINAL COURSE GRADE:

The course grade for Italian 3303 will be determined as follows:

Two brief papers @ 10% each	20%
Two cultural topic presentations @ 10% each	20 %
Readings and assignments	10 %
Final Presentation	15 %
Midterm	15 %
Final Project	<u>20 %</u>
Total	100 %

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

Reminders:

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 absence.

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.

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 three, one point will be deducted from the student’s final grade average. In other words, a student may miss three 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 quizzes or assignments will be given. A grade of “0” 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.
- Please silent all cell phones and any other potentially disruptive noise makers when you arrive in class.
- The final project topics will be chosen by the students and approved by the instructor. The required length of each final presentation will be 10 minutes. Guidelines for the final project will be discussed and posted on WebCT during week 13 of the semester.
- During the course, each student will be responsible for investigating two cultural topics (chosen at the beginning of the course) and presenting them to the class.