

**ITT3540 Murder Italian Style: Crime Fiction and Film in Italy
Course Syllabus**



<i>Instructor</i>	Deborah Amberson
<i>Meetings</i>	T period 7 (1:55-2:45); R period 7-8 (1:55-2:45; 3:00-3:50)
<i>Room</i>	TUR 2318
<i>Office</i>	Dauer 355
<i>Office Hours</i>	T 3:00-3:45; R 11:30-12:35
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Although we will begin our study by considering the crime genre within its international historical context, our exploration of the Italian crime novel and film will not be chronological. Instead, our movement through the texts and films will be governed by a range of critical categories & oppositions including: British intellectual model vs. American hardboiled; reason vs. sensory perception; canon vs. popular culture; order vs. chaos; State vs. Mafia; legality vs. natural order; conservatism vs. social critique. This approach will allow us to address the specificity of the Italian crime genres while, at the same time, placing these texts and films in a broader ideological and cultural context that will reveal the many applications and subversions of the generic formula. We will examine a range of authors and directors including Sciascia, Garrone, Sorrentino, Argento, Antonioni, and Camilleri. All students are expected to participate in in-class discussion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the conclusion of the course it is expected that students will:

- be equipped with an understanding of the socio-historical evolution of crime fiction
- be familiar with and able to assess critically the generic norms of crime fiction
- be familiar with the evolution of Italian crime fiction
- be able to engage critically with a variety of Italian manipulations of generic conventions
- demonstrate an ability to critically assess Italian theory and practice of crime fiction

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Leonardo Sciascia, *The Day of the Owl* (NY Review, 2003). ISBN: 978-1-59017-061-8
- Andrea Camilleri, *The Shape of Water* (NY: Penguin, 2002). ISBN: 0 14 20 0239 9
- Other readings will be made available on E-learning

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

ATTENDANCE & MAKEUP POLICY: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for each unexcused absence. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, & military obligation: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Should you

miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to the material covered. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on return to classes.

1. CLASS PARTICIPATION (15%): When you come to class, you should be ready to speak, argue, ask questions, and engage with the opinions of your classmates. Moreover, class participation is not about having all the right answers. Instead, participation is a question of preparing your homework reading or viewing and being alert and active in class. It is about expressing your uncertainties and doubts about our texts and films as much as it is about sharing your opinion on this or that author or director. It is also a question of listening to your classmates' opinions and questions, and responding when and where you can. Your participation grade will therefore reflect your overall attitude and willingness to engage with the work. It will also reflect the degree to which you have prepared your reading homework and the quality of your interventions in class. **See last page of syllabus for detailed participation rubric.**

2. QUESTION SHEETS (10%): You will be expected to complete and submit an answer sheet for each reading or viewing, beginning with Sciascia and ending with Lucarelli/Carofiglio. The will cover issues such as plot, genre, setting, characters. In addition to answering the questions as completely and accurately as you can, you might also view this exercise as a means to formulate your ideas for the week's in-class discussion. You will lose 1% for every time you fail to submit your completed answer sheet. There will be 10 answer sheets in total. I would repeat that this is not an exercise focused exclusively on right or wrong answers; my goal is that these answer sheets reflect the fact that you did your best with the assigned reading. Unless otherwise indicated in class, you should **email** me your completed question sheets **by midnight each Monday.**

3. IN-CLASS EXAMS (25%): You will take 2 in-class exams consisting of a combination of multiple-choice and/or paragraph or essay answers. Exams are scheduled for: **September 18; November 6**

4. PAPER 1 (15%): You will be expected to write a short paper (2 pages; 12 pt/double-spaced/1 inch margins) to be submitted via email by 11pm on October 11. Further details will be provided in class.

5. FINAL PRESENTATION (15%): Working in a group of 3-4 students, you will prepare a presentation (12-15 min) to be delivered during the last three classes of the semester. This presentation should provide an analysis of an Italian or Italian-based text not studied over the course of the semester. Your group will be expected to read the text in full and to deliver an analysis that situates and analyzes the text with respect to the relevant concepts and tendencies explored during the semester. Each member of the group will develop a different aspect of the text. A list of possible authors will be provided during the semester.

6. FINAL PAPER (20%): You will be expected to write a short paper (3-4 pages; 12 pt/double-spaced/1 inch margins) in which you develop in written form the content of your contribution to the final group presentation. This should not simply be a repetition of your part of the presentation, but should instead provide a more in-depth and critically supported elaboration of your analysis of the text and you should compare this text with one or more of the texts or films studied over the course of the semester. Further details will be provided in class.

Your work must be **documented accurately**, and all **sources should be cited** in accordance with MLA style. Secondary sources, whether textual or internet based, must be acknowledged in a clearly prepared bibliography as well as being clearly referenced, where relevant, in the body of the paper. **COPYING AND PASTING FROM INTERNET SOURCES AND ANY OTHER UNATTRIBUTED USE OF CRITICAL MATERIAL WILL EARN YOU AN E FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE.** Papers must be handed in on the due date unless you have received permission to extend the deadline. Late papers are

penalized and receive no comments, written or oral. Papers will be graded with regard not only to content, but also to grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

FINAL PAPER IS TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL to dambers@ufl.edu by 9pm on DECEMBER 9.

FINAL GRADE AT A GLANCE:

- Attendance & Class Participation, 15%
- Question Sheets, 10%
- Exams, 25%
- Paper 1, 15%
- Final Presentation, 15%
- Final Paper, 20%

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93 (4.0)	92-90 (3.67)	89-87 (3.33)	86-83 (3.0)	82-80 (2.67)	79-77 (2.33)	76-73 (2.0)	72-70 (1.67)	69-67 (1.33)	63-66 (1.0)	62-60 (0.67)	59- (0)

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>;

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Academic Honesty: Students are required to be honest in their coursework, may not use notes during quizzes or exams, and must properly cite all sources that they have consulted for their projects. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students, and will result in failure of the assignment in question and/or the course. For University of Florida's honor code, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

Counseling & Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

Online Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

COURSE CALENDAR
ITT3540: MURDER ITALIAN STYLE
(Schedule subject to change over the course of the semester)

READING (R) and/or VIEWING (V)	Tuesday 7	Thursday 7-8
No Reading/Viewing		8/23 Course Intro
Module 1: Generic Norms & Origins		
Tues: Todorov, "Typology of Detective Fiction" Thurs: Scaggs, Chronology of Crime, 7-32	8/28 Genre: Models & Conventions	8/30
Thurs: Past, "Introduction," 3-19	9/4 Gangster Genre	9/6 Giallo in Italy
Module 2: Collusion: State Law & Mafia		
Tues. (R): Sciascia, <i>Day of the Owl</i> , 7-65	9/11	9/13
Thurs. (R): Sciascia, <i>Day of the Owl</i> , 65-120	9/18 EXAM	9/20
Tues. (V): Garrone, <i>Gomorra</i> (2008) Tues. (R): Antonello, "Dispatches from Hell"	9/25	9/27
Thurs. (V): Sorrentino, <i>Il Divo</i> (2008) Thurs. (R): Marcus, "Il Divo: a Discussion"	10/2	10/4
Module 3: Philosophizing the Investigation		
Tues. (V): Antonioni, <i>Blow-up</i> (1966) Tues. (R): Harris, "Rear Window and Blow-up"	10/9	10/11 PAPER 1 DUE
Tues. (V): Argento, <i>Deep Red</i> (1975) Tues. (R): Koven, "Watching the Detectives"	10/16	10/18
Tues. (R): Camilleri, <i>Shape of Water</i> , 1-106	10/23	10/25
Tues. (R): Camilleri, <i>Shape of Water</i> , 107-218	10/30	11/1
Module 4: Portraits of the Detective		
Thurs. (R): Scerbanenco, <i>Private Venus</i> , 15-29; Carlotto, <i>Colombian Mule</i> , 8-18;	11/6 EXAM	11/8 Italian Noir
Tues. (R): Lucarelli, <i>Almost Blue</i> , 15-25; Carofiglio, <i>Involuntary Witness</i> , 3-22;190-193	11/13 Gender & Law	11/15
No Reading/Viewing	11/20	11/22 Thanksgiving
No Reading/Viewing	11/27 Presentations	11/29 Presentations
No Reading/Viewing	12/4 Presentations	

Final paper to be emailed to DAMBERS@UFL.EDU by 9pm Sunday December 9.

PARTICIPATION RUBRIC

	A: 90%- 100%	B: 80%-89%	C: 70%-79%	D: 60%-69%	E: 0-59%
Participation	Asks and answers questions in every class Participates enthusiastically in all class discussion Remains alert and focused on class discussion	Asks and answers questions in most class meetings. Participates enthusiastically in most class discussion Mostly alert and focused on class discussion	Ask and answers questions in at least half of the classes Occasionally participates in class discussion Frequently distracted, but alert more often than not	Speaks only when called upon by instructor Generally unenthusiastic about class Rarely focused on class activities; plays with phone; generally distracted	Absent
Preparation	Always comes to class having completed assigned readings or viewings	Completes assigned readings and viewings most of the time	Completes assigned readings and viewings at least half of the time	Only occasionally completes assigned readings and viewings	Absent
Quality of Comments	Comments always insightful & constructive Comments reflect content of assigned homework and show personal consideration or reflection on questions raised by homework	Comments mostly insightful & constructive Comments mostly reflect content of assigned homework but are occasionally too general or not entirely relevant to the discussion.	Comments sometimes constructive, with occasional signs of insight. Comments not always relevant to discussion and often show no evidence of homework preparation	Comments superficial, and mostly off topic. No real evidence of having prepared readings. Comments grounded only in personal opinion or preference.	Absent
Engagement in Group Work	Actively participates in group work. Listens attentively while others speak or present, as indicated by comments that reflect & build on remarks made	Mostly participates in group work Mostly attentive when others speak or present.	Sometimes inattentive during group work; needs to be reminded to focus Occasionally makes disruptive comments while others are speaking.	Only occasionally focused attention on topic of group work Does not listen to others; regularly talks while others speak; plays with computer; dozes off, etc.	Absent