

# ITW 3101: INTRODUCTION TO ITALIAN LITERATURE 2 BEGINNINGS

<b>Instructor</b>	Deborah Amberson
<b>Section Number</b>	1394
<b>Meetings</b>	T period 5-6 (11:45-12:35;12:50-1:40); R period 6 (12:50-1:40)
<b>Room</b>	MAT105
<b>Office</b>	Dauer 355
<b>Office Hours</b>	T 3-3:45; R 11:20-12:40
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:dambers@ufl.edu">dambers@ufl.edu</a>
<b>Phone</b>	(352) 273 3763

**Course Description:** This course explores a sampling of Italian novels, focusing attention on the texts' opening chapters or sections. Our itinerary will be, for the most part, chronological, as we examine changing authorial practices regarding the novelistic form as reflected in the opening pages of the works. We will also consider reader expectations and experience as we note an increasing tendency toward experimentation and, in some cases, playful self-referentiality. Questions such as entertainment, suspense, nationhood, community, and education will also feature in our discussions. Our work will also consider the various texts in the light of the broader evolution of Italian literary history. Students will be expected to contribute actively to in-class discussions. This course will, to a lesser extent, address students' language skills through in-class discussion, guided reading, presentations, creative assignments, and papers.

**Course materials: All course materials will be made available via e-learning site**

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Attendance, Class Participation & Homework Preparation (15%):

**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 assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on return to classes.

**Class Participation & Homework Preparation:** homework assignments involve, for the most part, the reading of a relatively short text. You should carry out this work in a concentrated manner, taking notes and jotting down your questions and uncertainties while you read. When you come to class, you should be ready to speak, argue, ask questions, and engage with the opinions of your classmates. Some of the selected readings are quite difficult and will be elaborated in class. Despite these difficulties students should do their best to decipher these texts at home prior to in-class discussion. To ensure that student preparation is as it should be each Tuesday class will begin with basic questions on the readings. If you are unable to answer these questions, I will assume that you have not prepared the homework and will dock you 1% of the homework preparation grade. You will lose 1% on each occasion that you prove unable to answer these basic questions.

**2. Question Sheets (10%):** You will be expected to complete and submit an answer sheet for each reading, beginning with Manzoni. The questions will not be complex, but will cover issues such as narrative voice (1<sup>st</sup> person or other), characters presented, environment described, potential type of text, tone, etc. While some of the questions do have a "correct" answer, you

should consider this exercise as more of an aid to your reading rather than a quiz. Moreover, in “grading” them, I will be more interested in the effort you expended rather than whether all your answers are “correct.” 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 here 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.

**3. Novel Selection & Presentation (5%):** Subsequent to our introductory discussion, you will be expected with a classmate to select a particularly engaging non-Italian novelistic beginning. You will select this opening and briefly present your choice to the class on September 7. Your presentation should be in Italian and should last approximately 5-7 minutes. If your novel is in a language other than English, please provide a translation for the class of the relevant part. You will provide me with a copy of the notes and/or handouts used for your presentation.

**4. Secondary Reading Presentation (10%):** Together with a classmate you will take responsibility for delivering a presentation on the secondary reading associated with one of the authors on our syllabus. Together you will read very closely the biographical and contextual material as well as the description of the text and you will summarize and present this material to the class with a Power Point Presentation or similar visual aid. These secondary readings do not cover all aspects of the authors’ lives or literary importance so your presentation should also reference any remaining questions you have about your author, his or her historical period, and the text itself. You should also be prepared to answer, with my help, any questions the class may have about the secondary reading. Presentations will be scheduled during the second or third week of class.

**5. Creative Assignment (15%):** For this assignment, you will be expected to write the opening of an imaginary novel. You may draw inspiration from the texts on the syllabus, but your assignment may also be written in a manner and style of your choosing. This novelistic opening should be approximately 3 pages in length and is due on October 3.

**6. Critical Commentary (15%):** You will be expected to write an analysis of the opening of an Italian novel to be provided in class. Specifically, you will be expected to consider the opening pages of a novel in light of questions and considerations raised in class and provide an assessment of the narrative voice, the text’s relation to the period in which it was written, and any other issues you deem appropriate. We will discuss techniques in class. The explication should be approximately 2 pages and should be written in English. The assignment is due on November 2.

**7. Final Discussion (5%):** We will close the semester with a broad and relatively informal discussion (in Italian) of the question of literary openings. I will also be soliciting your feedback concerning the content of the course in terms of structure, assignments, and texts. All students will be expected to contribute to this discussion --- ideally each student will contribute at least 4 times to the discussion. The discussion is scheduled for December 5.

**8. Text Selection Rationale (5%):** For the final paper you will work with one of the texts studied over the course of the semester. You will be expected to read the entire work, so choose wisely! Your analysis of the novel will involve a more profound consideration of the text in light of your completed reading. Your rationale should identify your text and its author as well as providing a clear indication of why you chose this particular text and what makes it so pertinent to a critical supported consideration of literary openings. The rationale is due on November 21.

**9. Final Paper (20%):** You will be expected to write a short paper (5 pages) in Italian. This paper should consider the opening of the novel in light of the rest of the text, focusing, where relevant, on issues of tone, narrative voice, foreshadowing, and circularity or any other questions you deem pertinent or significant. You will support your analysis with reference to two critical texts. **Final paper to be submitted via email to [dambers@ufl.edu](mailto:dambers@ufl.edu) by 5pm on December 10.** *Papers must be submitted on the due date unless you have received permission to extend the deadline or unless you have a signed medical excuse explaining your delay. Late papers are penalized and receive no comments. Papers will be graded with regard not only to content and organization, but also to grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Secondary sources, whether textual or web based, must be adequately acknowledged.*  
**UNATTRIBUTED USE OF SOURCES WILL EARN YOU AN E FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE.**

**Final Grade at a Glance:**

- Attendance, Class Participation & Homework Preparation, 15%.
- Question Sheets, 10%
- Novel Selection & Presentation, 5%
- Secondary Reading Presentation, 10%
- Creative Assignment, 15%
- Critical Commentary, 15%
- Final Discussion, 5%
- Text Rationale, 5%
- Final Paper, 20%

**Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):**

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

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>;  
<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 may result in failure of assignment and/or 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 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.

**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 quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. 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**  
**ITW3101 ITALIAN LITERATURE 2: BEGINNINGS**  
*(Schedule subject to change over the course of the semester)*

<b>READINGS:</b> <i>unless otherwise indicated, readings to be completed for Tuesday class</i>	<b>Tuesday periods 5-6</b>	<b>Thursday period 6</b>
(R) "Il romanzo"	8/22 Intro; First Sentences	8/24 "Il romanzo"
Richardson, "Narrative Beginnings"	8/29	8/31
Collodi, <i>Le avventure di Pinocchio</i>	9/5	9/7 <b>Presentation</b>
Manzoni, <i>I promessi sposi</i> ; Manzoni 2	9/12	9/14
Tarchetti, <i>Fosca</i> ; Tarchetti 2	9/19	9/21
Verga, <i>I Malavoglia</i> ; Verga 2	9/26	9/28
Slataper, <i>Il mio Carso</i> ; Slataper 2	10/3 <b>Creative Assignment</b>	10/5
Deledda, <i>Marianna Sirca</i> ; Deledda 2	10/10	10/12
Tozzi, <i>Il podere</i> ; Tozzi 2	10/17	10/19
Pirandello, <i>Uno, nessuno e centomila</i> ; Pirandello 2	10/24	10/26
Gadda, <i>Quer pasticciaccio brutto de via Merulana</i> ; Gadda 2	10/31	11/2 <b>Critical Commentary</b>
Sciascia, <i>Il giorno della civetta</i> ; Sciascia 2	11/7	11/9
Calvino, <i>Se una notte d'inverno un viaggiatore</i> ; Calvino 2	11/14	11/16
Ferrante, <i>L'amica geniale</i> ; Ferrante 2	11/21 <b>Rationale</b>	11/23 <b>Thanksgiving</b>
<b>NO READING</b>	11/28	11/30
<b>NO READING</b>	12/5 <b>Discussion</b>	

**REMINDER: FINAL PAPER TO BE EMAILED TO [DAMBERS@UFL.EDU](mailto:DAMBERS@UFL.EDU) BY 5pm DEC. 10.**