

ITW 4526: MAD LOVE IN MODERN ITALIAN LITERATURE
Course Syllabus



<i>Instructor</i>	Deborah Amberson
<i>Meetings</i>	T 5-6 (11:45-12:35; 12:50-1:40); R 6 (12:50-1:40)
<i>Room</i>	Tues. TUR 2354; Thurs. RNK 0225
<i>Office</i>	Dauer 355
<i>Office Hours</i>	T 3-3:45; R 11:30-12:35
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Course Description: Frequently associated with a clichéd and trite romantic passion, Italy has served as the setting for a variety of films that depict non-Italians in the throes of a sensual reawakening prompted by an encounter with the Italian peninsula and its inhabitants. Italy’s own literary and cinematic production provides a more varied and nuanced portrait of romantic and/or erotic love. This is particularly true of the literature and cinema of modern Italy. Here love is complicated not so much by the external obstacles that characterize the love stories of all epochs and areas but rather by the insecurities, indecision, and appetites of the lovers themselves. Happy endings are rare and the focus on erotic love often reveals the uncertainties and complexities of modernity itself. This course aims to guide us through a sampling of modern literary manifestations of a love that, in different ways, strays beyond the borders of the conventional. Aspects addressed will include: the natural world, carnality, gender, altruism, sensationalism, infidelity, violence.

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, oral presentations, and short papers.

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Readings will be available on **CANVAS E-LEARNING**.

1. Attendance and Class Participation (10%):

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.

Class Participation: 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 (15%): You will be expected to complete and submit (via email) an answer sheet for each reading or viewing, beginning with Pirandello and ending with Calvino. The questions will not be complex, but will cover issues such as characters, setting, the type of love described. 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 expend 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. The answers should be written in English. Unless otherwise indicated in class, you should email me your completed question sheets **by midnight each Monday**.

3. Poem Selection & Presentation (5%): After our discussion of D'Annunzio/Saba, you will be expected to select a non-Italian poem that addresses in an engaging manner the overlap of love and the natural world. You will present this poem during class time on September 6. You will briefly (4 minutes) present and justify (in Italian) your choice. If your poem is in a language other than English, please provide a translation for the class. You should provide me with a copy of the notes and/or handouts used for your presentation.

4. Analysis/Critical Commentary (15%): You will be expected to write an analysis of 1 of the texts studied. You will work with a section from a text and analyze the details (lexical, structural, thematic, etc.) of this excerpt, addressing the content of the piece and, as appropriate, how this piece serves to illuminate something important about the entire work, the author's understanding of love, the social period, etc. Details regarding techniques will be provided. The explication should be written in English and should be 2 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 pt. font; 1 inch margins). **Critical commentary should be emailed by midnight September 20.**

5. Mini-Paper (15%): You will be expected to write a short paper of 2-3 pages (double-spaced, 12 pt. font; 1 inch margins). This paper will be written in Italian on a topic to be discussed in class. **Mini-paper should be emailed directly to me by midnight on October 25.**

6. Final Critical Discussion (10%): This class discussion will revolve around a series of concepts to be established in class and applied to the texts studied across the semester. You will each propose a single concept or approach and develop, with the support/inclusion of one critical article, some notes in advance of the in-class discussion. You might consider proposing a topic that relates in some manner to your final paper as this might allow you to use the same critical article in both the discussion and the paper. You should provide me with a copy of your notes on the day of the discussion. Your grade for this assignment will reflect the quality of your content, the accuracy of your Italian, and the frequency with which you intervene. **Discussion will take place on December 4.**

7. Paper Proposal (5%): For the final paper you will work with a topic of your choosing. This proposal will be a paragraph length indication of your planned topic or area (see paper description below). It should contain a working title, a thesis statement, and a brief indication of

your planned direction. We will discuss possible topics in class closer to the date. **The proposal is due on November 20.**

8. Final Paper (25%): You will write a research paper in Italian of approx. 7 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 pt. font; 1 inch margins). This paper should reflect your original thinking and research on an aspect of mad love as elaborated in the work of one or more of the authors studied over the course of the semester. *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 COURSE. The final paper is due via email (dambers@ufl.edu) by 9pm on December 9.**

Final Grade at a Glance:

- Attendance & Class Participation, 10%
- Question Sheets, 15%
- Poem Selection & Presentation, 5%
- Critical Commentary, 15%
- Mini-Paper, 15%
- Final Critical Discussion, 10%
- Proposal, 5%
- Final Paper, 25%

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
ITW4526 MAD LOVE

(Schedule subject to change over the course of the semester)

READING <i>Unless otherwise indicated readings should be prepared for Tuesday*</i>	Tuesday periods 5-6	Thursday period 6
Syllabus/Introduction		8/23 Introduction
1. Quotations; 2. De Sousa, <i>Short Introduction to Love</i> , chapters 1-2. Thurs. De Sousa, chapter 3	8/28	8/30
LOVE & NATURE		
1. D'Annunzio, "Pioggia nel pineto"; 2. Saba, "A mia moglie"	9/4	9/6 Poem presentation
1. Pirandello, "Male di luna" 2. Watch: <i>Kaos</i> 44:24-1:28:44 (Kanopy)	9/11	9/13
LOVE & ILLUSION		
1. Leopardi, "Il pensiero dominante" 2. Watch: <i>Il giovane favoloso</i> (Netflix)	9/18	9/20 Commentary
Ortese, "Interno familiare"	9/25	9/27
FEMALE DESIRE: VAMPIRE & WOLVES		
Tarchetti, "Memento" & <i>Fosca</i> , V; XIII; XV; XXXII; XLVIII	10/2	10/4
Verga, "La Lupa"	10/9	10/11
ENIGMAS OF LOVE		
Tozzi, "L'amore"; "Marito e moglie"	10/16	10/18
Landolfi, "In società"	10/23	10/25 Mini-Paper
LOVE & ALTRUISM		
Calvino, "Tutto in un punto"	10/30	11/1
Sorrentino, <i>Le conseguenze dell'amore</i>	11/6	11/8
PASSION & PULP		
Invernizio, "Il segreto di una notte"	11/13	11/15
Germi, <i>Divorzio all'italiana</i> (Kanopy)	11/20 Paper Proposal	11/22 THANKSGIVING
NO READING	11/27 Writing prep	11/29 Discussion prep.
NO READING	12/4 Final Discussion	

*Additional critical readings may be assigned for a selection of our authors

REMINDER: Final paper to be emailed to dambers@ufl.edu by 9pm December 9

PARTICIPATION RUBRIC

	A: 90%- 100%	B: 80%-89%	C: 70%-79%	D: 60%-69%	E: 0-59%
Participation	<p>Answers and asks questions in every class</p> <p>Participates enthusiastically in all class discussion</p> <p>Remains alert and focused on class discussion</p>	<p>Asks and answers questions in most class meetings.</p> <p>Participates enthusiastically in most class discussion</p> <p>Mostly alert and focused on class discussion</p>	<p>Ask and answers questions in at least half of the classes</p> <p>Occasionally participates in class discussion</p> <p>Frequently distracted, but alert more often than not</p>	<p>Speaks only when called upon by instructor</p> <p>Generally unenthusiastic about class</p> <p>Rarely focused on class activities; plays with phone; generally distracted</p>	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	<p>Comments always insightful & constructive</p> <p>Comments reflect content of assigned homework and also show personal consideration or reflection on questions raised by homework</p>	<p>Comments mostly insightful & constructive</p> <p>Comments mostly reflect content of assigned homework, but are occasionally too general or not entirely relevant to the discussion.</p>	<p>Comments sometimes constructive, with occasional signs of insight.</p> <p>Comments not always relevant to discussion and often show no evidence of homework preparation</p>	<p>Comments superficial, and mostly off topic.</p> <p>No evidence of having prepared readings. Relies on opinion & personal taste, e.g., “mi piace,” “non mi piace.”</p>	Absent
Use Of Italian	<p>Always speaks in Italian when asking questions or working in groups</p> <p>Avoids speaking English in class or asks permission to speak briefly in English</p>	<p>Speaks Italian most of the time</p> <p>Occasionally lapses into English, but quickly returns to Italian</p>	<p>Speaks Italian at least half of the time</p> <p>Frequently lapses into English and seems unconcerned or unapologetic about doing so</p>	Rarely speaks Italian or uses only a few words	Absent
Engagement in Group Work	<p>Actively participates in group work.</p> <p>Student listens attentively while others speak or present, as indicated by comments that reflect & build on others’ remarks</p>	<p>Mostly participates in group work</p> <p>Mostly attentive when others speak or present.</p>	<p>Sometimes inattentive during group work; needs to be reminded to focus on activity</p> <p>Occasionally makes disruptive comments while others are speaking.</p>	<p>Only occasionally focused attention on topic of group work</p> <p>Does not listen to others; regularly talks while others speak or does not pay attention while others speak; detracts from discussion; sleeps, etc.</p>	Absent