

ITW 4526: MAD LOVE IN MODERN ITALIAN LITERATURE

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<i>Section Number</i>	0141
<i>Meetings</i>	T 5-6 (11:45-12:35;12:50-1:40); R 6 (12:50-1:40)
<i>Room</i>	T RNK 106; R FAC 120
<i>Office</i>	Dauer 355
<i>Office Hours</i>	T 3-3:45; R 11:20-12:40
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Course Description: This course will guide us through a sampling of modern literary manifestations of a love that, in different ways, strays beyond the borders of the conventional. Our itinerary will be, for the most part, chronological, as we sample a variety of texts that broach love from a range of perspectives. The love presented is not exclusively romantic, but sometimes endows, for example, sport, violence, technology, and death, with an erotic dimension. Equally some texts of the syllabus present love as an impenetrable enigma and/or the erotic as a disturbance to well-being. We will work to explore these and other texts and, in the process, discover a highly complex construction of love in the literature of a nation so frequently associated with a clichéd and trite romantic passion. 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, creative assignments, and short papers.

REQUIRED MATERIALS: Electronic versions available on **CANVAS E-LEARNING**.

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

Class Participation & Homework Preparation: If you are not ready to speak, listen, disagree, argue when you come to class, then you are not prepared for class. Therefore, you should complete the reading by the assigned class period and be ready to discuss it. Reading preparation is helped by writing—so be sure to mark your text and take notes. 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. If you do not prepare the readings by the due date you will be docked a percentage of the preparation grade. Each Tuesday class will begin with a series of basic questions on the contents of 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 preparation grade. You will lose 1% on each occasion that you prove unable to answer these basic questions.

2. Critical Essay Presentation (10%): Together with a classmate, you will focus on one of our primary authors/texts and select a secondary critical essay which you will read, summarize, and present to the class during the week dedicated to your chosen primary author/text. The critical essay does not have to be written in Italian, but your presentation

should be delivered in Italian. You may choose from the following authors: Leopardi, Tarchetti, Verga, Invernizio, Tozzi, Svevo, Levi, Ortese, Calvino, and Balestrini. You will select your critical article in consultation with me. Students will select their primary author/text during the second or third week of the semester.

3. *Explication de texte*/Critical Commentary x 2 (10% & 15%; 25%): You will be expected to write 2 *explications de texte* or critical commentaries on 2 of the texts studied. In each case, you will choose a text or a section from a text and analyze the details (lexical, structural, thematic, etc.) of this text or 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. We will discuss techniques in class. The first *explication* should be written in English and should be at least 2 pages in length (double-spaced); it is worth 10% of your final grade. The second *explication* should be in Italian and should be at least 3 pages in length; it will be worth 15% of your final grade.

The *explications de texte* are due on January 28 and March 17.

4. Racconto x 2 (10% & 10%; 20%): For these creative assignments, you will be asked to write short stories in Italian that, drawing inspiration from the texts on the syllabus, explore a version of mad love. These stories should be approximately 3 pages in length.

The *racconti* are due on February 25 and March 31.

5. Final Discussion (5%): This class discussion will consider a series of concepts applied to ALL the texts studied during the semester. Working with a classmate, you will consider the central concepts and prepare your ideas and contributions in note form. You will during the discussion contribute as a team. 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 April 19.

6. Paper Proposal (5%): For the final presentation and 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 April 7.**

7. Final Paper (20%): You will write a research paper in Italian of approximately 8 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 5pm on April 24.**

Final Grade at a Glance:

- Attendance, Class Participation & Homework Preparation, 15%.
- Critical Essay Preparation, 10%
- *Explication de texte* 1/Critical Commentary 1, 10%
- *Explication de texte* 2/Critical Commentary 2, 15%
- *Racconto* x 2, 10% each

- Final Discussion, 5%
- Proposal, 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
ITW4526 MAD LOVE

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

READING	Tuesday periods 5-6	Thursday period 6
1. Introductory materials (Tues). 2. Bataille, <i>Erotism</i> , Intro. (Thurs)	1/5 Introduction	1/7 Bataille
1. D'Annunzio, "Pioggia nel pineto" 2. Saba, "A mia moglie"	1/12 Bataille; Love & Nature	1/14
1. Ungaretti, "Veglia" & "Mattinata"; 2. V. Hand, "Ambiguous Joy: Contradictions & Tensions in Ungaretti's <i>L'Allegria</i> (1914-1919)	1/19 Love & War; critical article	1/21
Leopardi, "Amore e morte"	1/26 Love & Death	1/28 <i>Explication de texte 1</i>
Tarchetti, "Memento" & <i>Fosca</i> , V; XIII; XV; XXXII; XLVIII	2/2 Vampiric Love	2/4
Verga, "La Lupa"	2/9 Animal Passions	2/11
Invernizio, "Il segreto di una notte"	2/16 Love & Crime	2/18
Tozzi, "L'amore"	2/23 Enigmas of Love	2/25 <i>Racconto 1</i>
SPRING BREAK		
Svevo, "Il fumo," <i>coscienza di Zeno</i>	3/8 Love & Addiction	3/10
Levi, "Canto di Ulisse," <i>Se questo è un uomo</i>	3/15 Literary love & Self	3/17 <i>Explication de texte 2</i>
Ortese, "Interno familiare"	3/22 Love & Disorder	3/25
Calvino, "Tutto in un punto"	3/29 Cosmic Love	3/31 <i>Racconto 2</i>
Balestrini, <i>I furiosi</i> (canto 7)	4/5 Love & Fury	4/7 <i>Paper Proposal</i>
NO READING	4/12 Proposal feedback & writing prep	4/14 feedback & prep
NO READING	4/19 Final Discussion	

REMINDER: Final paper to be emailed to dambers@ufl.edu by 5pm April 24