

ITT 3700 The Demolition of Man: Italian Perspectives on the Holocaust
Course Syllabus
Fall 2021



Instructor	Deborah Amberson
Section Number	29CB
Class Number	14672
Class Meetings - Time	T 7 (1:55-2:45); R 7-8 (1:55-2:45; 3:00-3:50)
Class Meetings - Place	T MAT 009; R LIT 0223
Office	Dauer 355
Office Hours	T 12:45-1:45, R 12:45-1:45, and by appointment
Email	damberson@ufl.edu
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will guide us through a sampling of Italy’s texts and films on the Jewish Holocaust. Centered on the writings of Primo Levi, Italy’s most well-known and internationally esteemed survivor, our itinerary will also take us through the historical realities of fascist Italy to a selection of Italian films (Pontecorvo, Cavani, Wertmüller, and Benigni) that, often in controversial ways, deal with the experience of the concentration camps. We will address a series of questions including intellectual death; realities of the camps; the “musselman”; the “compromises” made to survive (“Grey Zone”); and the need to testify felt by many survivors.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (Touchstone, 1996)
- Primo Levi, *The Drowned and the Saved* (Vintage, 1989)
- All other reading materials are available on CANVAS.
- ALL FILMS ARE ON RESERVE IN LIBRARY WEST.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

FINAL GRADE AT A GLANCE:

- Class Participation, 10%
- Journals, 15%

- Exam, 15%
- Presentation: Levi, 10%
- Short paper, 15%
- Final Presentation, 10%
- 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	66-63	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>

ASSIGNMENT NOTES

- **Rubrics** for written assignments, oral presentations, and participation are available in the Rubrics folder on Canvas.
- In the case of presentations, **you must upload all notes and visual supports through Canvas.** If I do NOT receive notes, you will NOT receive a grade for the assignment.
- Unless otherwise indicated, all written assignments should be submitted through **Canvas.**
- All written assignments should be submitted in Microsoft word format (**NO ADOBE/PDF**). They should be **double-spaced and written in 12 pt. font** (Times New Roman, Cambria, Calibri, or similarly conventional script) with **1-inch margins** on all sides.

1. CLASS PARTICIPATION (10%): When you come to class, you should be ready to speak and engage with the opinions of your classmates. Class participation is not about having the right answers. Instead, participation is a question of preparing the assigned readings/viewings and being alert and active in class. It is about expressing your doubts just as much as it is about sharing your opinions. It is also a question of listening to your classmates’ opinions and responding when and where you can. Your participation grade will reflect your overall 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. For further details see participation rubric.

2. JOURNALS (15%): You will be expected to complete a weekly journal providing your reactions to our readings and viewings. The journals will begin with **Primo Levi** (9/14) and end with **Benigni** (11/18), for a total of **9 journals**. Your journal should be at least one page in length. You might see the journal as a space to express your first impressions of our readings/films as well as a forum for developing any ideas you think might be worth sharing in class. In grading your journals, I will focus on the effort you expend rather than on whether all your answers are “correct.” You will lose over 1.5% every time you fail to submit your journal. **Unless otherwise indicated, you should submit your journal entry via Canvas AT LEAST ONE HOUR BEFORE OUR TUESDAY CLASSES.**

3. EXAM (15%): At the end of our history introduction, you will take 1 short in-class exam, which will consist of multiple-choice format and/or short essay answers. **Exam is scheduled for Sept. 14.**

4. PRESENTATION: LEVI (10%): As part of a group of 3-4 students, you will prepare and deliver a presentation of about 15 minutes in length. Your group will select one of the topics explored in our readings of Levi and deliver a presentation that defines, supports, and assesses the topic as it is presented and developed by Levi. In the interests of clarity, your group should use visual support such as PPT. **Presentations are scheduled for October 19 and October 21.**

5. SHORT PAPER (15%): You will write a paper of 2-3 pages in length (double-spaced; 12 pt. font; 1-inch margins) exploring a single concept or area addressed by Primo Levi. This is not a research paper; you are not expected to include sources beyond Levi's texts and the assigned readings. Topics will be discussed during the semester. **The short paper is due October 28.**

6. FINAL PRESENTATION (10%): As part of a group of 3-4 students, you will be expected to deliver a presentation of about 15 minutes in length. Together with your group, you will select a film not included on the syllabus. Though this film or text does need to address the experience of the camps, it does not have to be the work of an Italian director. Your presentation should introduce your classmates to the work, and it should also consider the work in the light of the texts and films studied during the semester. In the interests of clarity, your group should use visual support such as PPT. **Presentations are scheduled for November 30 and December 2.**

7. FINAL PAPER (25%): You will be expected to write a paper of at least 6 pages in length (double-spaced; 12 pt. font; 1-inch margins) reflecting your thinking and research on a topic to be selected in consultation with me. Work on the final project will be divided into **3 parts: a proposal (due Nov. 16, 2%), an outline & bibliography (due Nov. 23, 3%), and the paper (due Dec. 12, 20%).** *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 cited. UNATTRIBUTED USE OF SOURCES WILL EARN YOU AN E FOR THE COURSE. Papers must be uploaded to Canvas by 9pm on Sunday December 12.*

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Attendance & Makeup: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for each unexcused absence. Absences are excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, & the 12-day rule: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. **Repeated tardiness** will also impact your attendance record as 3 late arrivals count for 1 absence. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered. Moreover, I will not remind or nag you about your attendance as it is your responsibility to keep a record of your absences. 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.

Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct

Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center: <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

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/>).

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

COVID-19: In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- **If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated.** Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot: <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.
- **You are expected to wear approved face coverings** at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.
- **If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine.** Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect, you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

COURSE CALENDAR: DEMOLITION OF MAN

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

READING & VIEWING	Tuesday 7	Thursday 7/8
(R) Pugliese, "Israel in Italy: Wrestling with the Lord in the Land of Divine Dew"	8/24 Intro	8/26 Jewish-Italian History
(T) Finish Jewish-Italian History (R) Duggan, <i>Concise History of Italy, 195-245</i>	8/31	9/2 Fascism
(T) Calendrille, "Haven or Hell?: Italy's Refuge for Jews 1933-45" (R) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : "Author's Preface," Poem (Shemà), "The Journey"	9/7 Racial laws	9/9 Finish history; start <i>Survival</i>
(T) No reading – EXAM (R) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : "On the Bottom," "Initiation," "Ka-Be," "Our Nights," "The Work," "A Good Day" • Journal #1 due by Thursday's class	9/14 EXAM	9/16 <i>Survival</i>
(T) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : "This Side of Good & Evil," "Drowned & Saved" (R) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : "Chemical Exam," "Canto of Ulysses," "Events of Summer," "October 1944," "Kraus." • Journal #2 due by Tuesday's class	9/21 <i>Survival</i>	9/23 <i>Survival</i>
(T) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : "Die drei Leute vom Labor," "The Last One." (R) Levi, <i>Survival</i> : "Ten Days"; <i>Drowned & Saved</i> : "Memory of the Offense." • Journal #3 due by Tuesday's class	9/28 <i>Survival</i>	9/30 <i>Survival</i> & <i>Drowned</i>
(T) Levi, <i>Drowned & Saved</i> , "Gray Zone" (R) Levi, <i>Drowned</i> , "Shame," "Communicating," "Useless Violence" • Journal #4 due by Tuesday's class	10/5 <i>Drowned</i>	10/7 <i>Drowned</i>
(T) Levi, <i>Drowned & Saved</i> , "The Intellectual in Auschwitz," "Stereotypes," and "Conclusion" (R) Levi (Poems): "Reveille," "Partisans," "The Survivor" • Journal #5 due by Tuesday's class	10/12 <i>Drowned</i>	10/14
PRESENTATIONS: LEVI • No Journal Due	10/19 Presentation	10/21 Presentation
(T) Watch: Pontecorvo, <i>Kapò</i> (1960) (R) Read: Rivette, "On Abjection" • Journal #6 due by Tuesday's class	10/26	10/28 Paper 1
(T) Watch: Cavani, <i>Night Porter</i> (1974) (R) No critical reading • Journal #7 due by Tuesday's class	11/2	11/4
(T) Watch: Wertmüller, <i>Seven Beauties</i> (1975) (R) Pfefferkorn, "Bettelheim, Wertmüller, & Morality of Survival" • Journal #8 due by Tuesday's class	11/9	11/11 Veterans Day
(R) Watch: Benigni, <i>Life is Beautiful</i> (1997) (R) Viano, "Life Is Beautiful, Reception, Allegory, & Holocaust Laughter" • Journal #9 due by THURSDAY'S class	11/16 Wertmüller Proposal	11/18 Benigni
(T) Benigni discussion NO READING/NO VIEWING	11/23 Benigni Outline & Biblio	11/25 Thanksgiving
NO READING/NO VIEWING	11/30 Presentations	12/2 Presentations
NO READING/NO VIEWING	12/7	