



instructor: Sara Agnelli
course: ITA 3500, sect. 045D (Fall 2016)
meetings: T 7 (1:55pm–2:45pm); R 7–8 (1:55pm–3:50pm)
room: MAT 0116
office hours: *tbd*
email: saraclassics@ufl.edu

Course Description and Objectives

This course is essential for all of those who want to know more about Italy. It will reveal the Italians in all their complexity, from their *dolce vita* and transcendent art to their gut-wrenching social and political struggle. Through a comparative and analytical perspective, we will get under the skin of a fascinating people in a remarkable and compelling way. We will explore the subject through a mix of historical analysis and hard data, as well as a study of Italian literature and cinema. Our focus will be on the people of today, who can be only understood by listening out for many complex echoes and reverberations of their past. We will investigate a broad range of topics including, but not limited to: Italy's violent and disintegrated past, the regions and their histories, the local languages, Italian politics, the labyrinth of bureaucracy and legal system, the role of the Catholic Church, the *Mafiosi*, women (their status, treatment and cultural norms surrounding them), the Italian male, jobs, and "raccomandazioni" (the uniquely Italian-style spoils system). Over the course of the semester, we will consider these and other issues as they emerge from our readings. Students will be expected to contribute actively to in-class discussions. By the end of the semester, students should expect to understand how geography, history, and traditions have shaped Italy and its citizens, for better and sometimes for worse.

Texts and Resources

Required Texts:

John Hooper, *The Italians*, Penguin Books: New York, 2016 (paperback edition); other materials will be made available via canvas e-learning.

Recommended Texts:

Luigi Barzini, *The Italians*, Touchstone: New York, 1996

David Gilmour, *The Pursuit of Italy: A History of a Land, Its Regions, and Their Peoples*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux: New York, 2011

Course requirements

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

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call at the beginning of each class. Your grade and overall success greatly depend on your attendance. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

1. Class begins promptly. A student is counted as being tardy if he/she comes in after class has started.
2. A student is counted as being absent if he/she fails to attend the class.
3. The student will lose 1% from his/her final grade for each unexcused absence.

Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered in class. 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, makes-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on their return to classes.

Class Participation & Homework Preparation: You should complete the reading or viewing by the assigned class period and be ready to discuss it. Reading or viewing passively is not enough, so be sure to mark your text and take notes. Each Tuesday class will begin with a series of basic questions on the assigned readings or films. 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. In-class Exams (40%)

There will be 2 in-class exams during the semester. These will consist of multiple choice and/or short paragraph answers and are scheduled for September 22 and November 17. Further details will be provided in class closer to the exam dates.

3. Film Analysis Essays (10%)

You will be expected to write 2 film analyses in Italian of 1-2 pages in length (double-spaced; 12 pt font; 1 inch margins), exploring a single thematic concept related to the film (i.e.: how the movie relates a historical event without compromising the facts; Italian humor and wit; how to express attitudes, emotions and relationships). Your analyses will revolve around an extended class discussion of the movies. It is expected that everyone will participate in this discussion and your grade for this assignment will be based also on the level and quality of your participation. Film selection will be provided by the end of the second week of the semester. Discussions are scheduled for September 29 and October 20. Your papers are due on the same day.

4. Final Presentation (15%)

As part of a group of approximately 2-3 students, you will be expected to deliver a presentation of about 15 minutes in length. Together with your group, you will select a text or film not included on the syllabus. Your presentation should introduce your classmates to the work and it should also consider the work in light of the texts and films studied over the course of the semester. The presentations are scheduled for November 29 & December 1.

5. Final Research Paper (20%)

You will be expected to write a research paper in Italian (approximately 8 pages; 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: paper proposal (due November 3, 2%), preliminary outline & bibliography (due November 22, 3%), and the paper (due December 13, 15%). Papers must be submitted on the due date unless you have asked for and received permission to extend the deadline or unless you have a valid excuse. Papers will be graded with regard not only to content and organization, but also to presentation, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Your research should be documented accurately. Secondary sources, whether textual or internet based, must be acknowledged. **Unattributed use of sources will earn you an E for the course.** Papers must be emailed to saraclassics@ufl.edu by 11:59pm on Tuesday, December 13.

Break-down of final grade

Attendance, Class Participation & Homework Preparation	15%
2 in-class Exams	40%
2 Film Analysis Essays	10%
Final Presentation	15%
Final Research Paper	20%

Grading Scale

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

catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx
student.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html

Classroom Accommodation

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter to present to the instructor. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

dso.ufl.edu/drc (352) 392 8565

Evaluate your Instructor

Students should provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at evaluations.ufl.edu. The University will announce specific times at the end of the semester for evaluation. Students may view summary results of these assessments at: evaluations.ufl.edu/results

Honor Code

Familiarize yourself with the University of Florida Student Honor Code and obey it always. You can find the Student Honor Code online at:

dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code

Counseling and Wellness

Students who face difficulties completing the course or need counseling or urgent help should call the Counseling and Wellness Center. Do not wait until the end of the semester for help.

counseling.ufl.edu

Important Dates:

September 22 (in class)

September 29

October 20

November 3

November 17 (in class)

November 22

November 29 – December 1

December 13, 11:59pm

Exam 1

Film Analysis Essay 1

Film Analysis Essay 2

Paper Proposal

Exam 2

Preliminary Outline & Bibliography

Final Presentation

Final Paper (to be emailed to saraclassics@ufl.edu)

Holidays – No classes:

November, Wednesday, 23 – Sunday, 26

Thanksgiving

Course Outline

ALL readings are REQUIRED, including the materials in canvas e-learning, and should be completed BEFORE class. Literary readings in Italian *tbd*.

KEY: Hooper = *The Italians*, by J. Hooper, Penguin Books: New York, 2016

Week 1.

- 8/23 “The Beautiful Country” (Hooper ch. 1)
8/25 “A Violent Past” (Hooper ch. 2)

Week 2.

- 8/30 “Echoes and Reverberations” (Hooper ch. 3)
9/01 “A Hall of Mirrors” (Hooper ch. 4)

Week 3.

- 9/6 “Fantasia” (Hooper ch. 5)
9/8 “Face Values” (Hooper ch. 6)

Week 4.

- 9/13 “Life as Art” (Hooper ch. 7)
9/15 “*Gnocchi* on Thursdays” (Hooper ch. 8)

Week 5.

- 9/20 “Holy Orders” (Hooper ch. 9)
9/22 In-class Exam 1

Week 6.

- 9/27 “*Le Italiane*” (Hooper ch. 10)
9/29 Film Discussion (Film Analysis Essay 1 due)

Week 7.

- 10/4 “Lovers and Sons” (Hooper ch. 11)
10/6 “Family Matters” (Hooper ch. 12)
“People Who Don’t Dance” (Hooper ch. 13)

Week 8.

- 10/11 “Taking Sides” (Hooper ch. 14)
10/13 “Restrictive Practices” (Hooper ch. 15)

Week 9.

- 10/18 “Of Mafia and *Maftiosi*” (Hooper ch. 16)
10/20 Film Discussion (Film Analysis Essay 2 due)

Week 10.

- 10/25 “Temptation and *Tangenti*” (Hooper ch. 17)
10/27 *tbd*

Week 11.

- 11/1 “Pardon and Justice” (Hooper ch. 18)
11/3 *tbd*

Week 12.

- 11/8 “Questions of Identity” (Hooper ch. 19)
11/10 *tbd*

Week 13.

- 11/15 “Epilogue” (Hooper ch. 20)
11/17 In-class Exam 2

Week 14.

- 11/22 *tbd*

Week 15.

- 11/29 Final Presentation
12/1 Final Presentation

Week 16.

- 12/6 *tbd*