

ITA3500, sec. 0793: Italian Civilization (Spring 2017)

T | Period 5–6 (11:45 AM – 1:40 PM)

R | Period 6 (12:50 PM – 1:40 PM)

THE CANONICAL TEXTS OF THE ITALIAN LITERATURE  
AND THEIR RECEPTION

<i>Instructor</i>	Sara Agnelli
<i>Office</i>	DAU 361 (third floor)
<i>Office Hours</i>	<i>tbd</i>
<i>Email</i>	saraclassics@ufl.edu

Course Overview

In this course, we will examine Italian literature's canon of major writers (*maggiori*), from Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio, the 'three crowns' (*tre corone*) of the 14th century as Italians call them, through to Giacomo Leopardi and Alessandro Manzoni in the 19th as well as other names who have their places in the canon assured (from Giovanni Verga, Italy's leading realist novelist, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, to Eugenio Montale, who produced some of the best poetry to be written in Europe in the century that followed). For the primary texts, we will also consider their reception in a comparative perspective in order to evaluate the "impact" they have had and still do have on the history of western literature.

Course Outline

The course will follow a roughly chronological order – starting with Dante, Petrarch and Boccaccio, and ending with Eco.

Parte I: Il Medioevo

Dante

Parte II: Il Rinascimento

Petrarca

Boccaccio

Macchiavelli

Ariosto

### Parte III: L'età moderna

Tasso

Leopardi

Manzoni

### Parte IV: L'età contemporanea

Il secondo Ottocento (Carducci, Verga, Pascoli, D'Annunzio)

Pirandello

Il primo Novecento (Svevo, Moravia, Ungaretti, Saba, Montale)

Il secondo Novecento (Gadda, Calvino, Pasolini, Eco)

### Texts and Resources

Vecce, C. (2009). *Piccola storia della letteratura italiana*. Napoli: Liguori. Kindle Edition

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/search?index=books&linkCode=qs&keywords=9788820746841>

Other materials will be placed in Canvas; in addition, there are some readings which I will distribute to all students in class during the semester.

### Course Requirements

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

Attendance & Class Participation: Attendance *and informed participation at all class meetings is required*. This means that you show up to class on a regular basis and complete your assignments on time. The entire success of the course is that you *get involved, get interested and get motivated* to the history of a world which in many ways produced our own.

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:

<https://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's final grade will be deducted by 1% from his/her final grade for each unexcused absence after the second unexcused absence of the semester.

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.

Homework Preparation: you should complete the reading or viewing by the assigned class period and be ready to discuss it.

The use of cell phones is prohibited. Phones must be silenced and kept in your backpack. Computers may be used exclusively for E text access. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in a greatly reduced participation grade.

## 2. In-class tests (30%)

There will be 2 non-cumulative tests during the semester. The first test will consist of multiple choice and/or short paragraph answers and is scheduled for February 23. The second test will be an oral exam (April 13 and 18). Further details will be provided in class closer to the exam dates.

## 3. Quizzes (15%)

There will be 2 quizzes during the semester. These will consist of multiple choice and/or short paragraph answers and are scheduled for January 24 and March 28. You can expect the quizzes to last about 20-25 minutes, with regular class continuing afterwards.

## 4. Book critical analysis (40%)

For this class, you are required to write a critical analysis of a literary work selected from Italian literature's canon.

Here some ideas:

Calvino, I. (1990). *Il cavaliere inesistente*. Milano: A. Mondadori Editore.

D'Annunzio, G., & Roncoroni, E. (1995). *Il piacere*. Milano: A. Mondadori.

Eco, U. (1988). *Il nome della rosa*. Milano: Bompiani.

Pirandello, L. (1957). *Il fu Mattia Pascal: Romanzo*. Verona: A. Mondadori.

Your analysis should be in Italian and 3–4 typed pages long (double-spaced, one-inch margins). It will not be due until April 27 (11:59pm, to be emailed to [saraclassics@ufl.edu](mailto:saraclassics@ufl.edu)). A book analysis is not a book review. Therefore, a book analysis is more than a summary of the content (even though this is an important component), but a critical study of the book and its reception in the history of literary criticism. We will discuss further details in class.

Work on this final project will be divided into 3 parts: selection of the book (due January 26, 7%), preliminary outline & bibliography (due March 21, 13%), and the book critical analysis (due April 27, 20%). Your work 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. Your critical analysis 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 Thursday, April 27.

#### Break-down of final grade

Attendance, Class Participation & Homework Preparation 15%

2 in-class Exams (Test 1 and oral exam) 30%

2 quizzes 15%

Critical Book Review 40%

#### 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:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

<https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://counseling.ufl.edu)

### **Important Dates**

January 24, (in class) Quiz 1

January 26, Book Selection

February 23, (in class) Test 1 – Written Exam

March 21, Preliminary Outline & Bibliography

March 28, (in class) Quiz 2

April 13 and April 18, (in class) Test 2 – Oral Exam

April 27, 11:59pm Final Project (to be emailed to [saraclassics@ufl.edu](mailto:saraclassics@ufl.edu))

### **No classes**

March, 4–11, Spring Break

April 6 (readings at home *tba*)