

ITW 3310 ITALIAN CIVILIZATION

Messa in scena di tre atti unici di Luigi Pirandello

Instructor Gianfranco Balestriere
Meetings MTW, 7th period
Room MCCA 2186
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Course Description: This course is designed to improve students communicative skills while introducing them to the literary and theater works of the Italian play writer Luigi Pirandello. The class will focus on the reading, production and final performance of three one act plays. The course is an immersion in Italian language and culture and as such Italian will be the only language used during class time and during the production of the play.

The course consists of three complementary parts. During the first three weeks we will read excerpts from two of Pirandello's most famous novels and from his essay on *Umorismo* in an effort to understand the author's literary, cultural and historical background. The second part focuses on the plays we will stage: *La morsa* (1882), *La patente* (1917-19), *L'altro figlio* (1923). The reading of the texts, in approximately three weeks, will help us to become familiar with the characters, the main points of the plots and to start discussing interpretation of the plays. During this reading, particular attention will be devoted to grammatical structure, lexicon and pronunciation. At the end of this phase roles will be assigned. The third phase will consist of the adaptation and the production of the plays.

Required Materials:

1. E-pack. I will send an e-pack with the readings for the first part of the course. During the semester more material will be made available to students.
2. Students will be able to find Pirandello's complete works in Italian on this site: <http://www.pirandelloweb.com/index.htm>

Attendance and participation (15%):

Attendance policy: We meet three times a week but, as we get closer to our final performance extra meetings for rehearsal will be necessary. I have indicated the extra time necessary in the course calendar. However, we will develop a schedule together. Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. Students will lose 1% from final grade for each unexcused absence. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, military obligation, and the twelve-day rule (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

Remember: we are a theatrical troupe and as such we work as a unified team. A team cannot function without the presence of everyone supposed to be at a meeting or rehearsal. If there are problems or emergencies, please contact me at (352) 870 3988.

Class Participation: The first part of the course, focused on some of Pirandello's works, and the reading of the plays run as a seminar: students must be ready to speak, listen, disagree, and argue, in other words, participate in an enthusiastic way. It is from these discussions and your ideas that our interpretation of the play will take shape. In the performance phase it is necessary to leave inhibitions at the door. We will all find obstacles, at times sound and look ridiculous and others make mistakes. Let's laugh about this, have fun and keep in mind our goals.

Preparedness: You should complete the reading by the assigned class period and be ready to discuss it. Reading passively is not reading. Active reading requires writing—so be sure to mark your text and take notes.

Exams (20%): During the semester you will take two exams. These exams will consist of short essay/paragraph answers.

Papers (20%): During the semester you will write two short papers of 3-4 typed and double-spaced pages. The first paper will be written on a topic of your choice and it will be about Pirandello's works; the second paper will be about the character interpreted by the student or his/her role in the production. Your writing will be evaluated on both content and form.

Diario (15%): Students must write a journal in Italian which I will collect on Mondays. In it students should record their impressions, questions, observations, emotions about the readings and the plays. I expect a minimum of one entry per meeting, half a page or more. Your writing will be evaluated on the basis of both content and form.

Presentation (10%): Students will be asked to introduce to the class the character they would like to impersonate in a monologue narrated in the first person, from the stand point of the character. Those students who do not have an acting role in the production and participate with their technical support (set and costume designers, make-up artist, stage director, etc) can report on their ideas and plans for the *mise en scene*.

Break-down of final grade

Attendance and Participation	15%
2 exams	20%
1 presentation	10%
2 papers	20%
Diario	15%
Memorization	20%

Week 1

1/06 Introduzione
1/08 Biografia

Week 2

1/11 *Diario 1; L'Umoreismo*
1/13 Il fu Mattia Pascal
1/15 Uno, Nessuno e Centomila

Week 3

1/18 MLK day
1/20 *Diario 2; Il teatro di Pirandello*
1/22 Teatro: Sei personaggi in cerca di un autore: La scena. Ripasso

Week 4

1/25 *Esame 1*
1/27 La morsa
1/29 *Paper 1*; La morsa

Week 5

2/1 *Diario 3*; La patente
2/03 La patente
2/05 La patente

Week 6

2/08 *Diario 4*; L'altro figlio
2/10 L'altro figlio
2/12 L'altro figlio

Week 7

2/15 *Diario 5*; *Esame 2*
2/17 *Presentazioni*
2/19 *Presentazioni*

Week 8

2/22 Diario 6; prove
2/24 *Paper 2*
2/26 prove

Week 9

2/29 Spring Break
3/02 Spring Break
3/04 Spring Break

Week 10 2 extra hours

3/7
3/9
3/11

Week 11 3 extra hours

3/14
3/16
3/18

Week 12 3-4 extra hours

3/21
3/23
3/25

Week 13 4-5 extra hours
3/28
3/30
4/01

Week 14 4-5 extra hours
4/04
4/06
4/08

Week 15 6-7 extra hours
4/11
4/13
4/15

Week 16
4/18 Prova
4/19 Prova generale
4/20 Performance