

**ITW4026C SYLLABUS**  
**Representing the *Humble Italy*: Literature and Cinema of the Italian South**



<i>Instructor</i>	Deborah Amberson
<i>Meetings</i>	T 5-6 (11:45-12:35; 12:50-1:40); R 6 (12:50-1:40)
<i>Room</i>	T FLI 115; R TUR 2350
<i>Office</i>	Dauer 355
<i>Office Hours</i>	T: 1:45-2:45; R: 11:25-12:35
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** We will explore a sampling of Italy’s texts and films dealing with the so-called “Southern Question.” Our itinerary will take us from the anthropological gaze of the northerner, Carlo Levi, through a selection of texts by southern authors, including Verga, Serao, Alvaro, Ortese, and Sciascia to a selection of films dealing with a variety of southern issues. These texts will permit us to address some central questions including but not limited to: the exclusion of the south from “official” history; southern resistance to modernity; social conservatism; mafia & corruption; honor codes. The course will address student language skills through in-class discussion, guided reading, papers, and presentations in Italian.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the conclusion of the course it is expected that students will be in a position to:

- analyze the “Southern Question” as well as a sampling of related texts & films
- explain and assess the socio-political and cultural categories that have contributed to the South’s exclusion from “official” Italian history
- engage critically, in oral Italian, with representations of a Southern “counter-history”
- critically assess, in written Italian, the cultural & ethical implications of literary and cinematic representations of the South

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** *Course Materials available on CANVAS*

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **1. Attendance and Class Participation (10%):**

**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:** When you come to class, you should be ready to speak, ask questions, and engage with the opinions of your classmates. Class participation is not about having all the right answers. Instead, participation is a question of preparing the assigned readings and being alert and active in class. It is about expressing your doubts about our assignments as much as it is about sharing your opinion on this or that author or director. It is also a question of listening to your classmates' opinions and responding when and where you can. Your participation grade will therefore 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. See last page of syllabus for *detailed participation rubric*.

- **Unless otherwise indicated, written assignments should be emailed directly to [dambers@ufl.edu](mailto:dambers@ufl.edu)**

**2. Worksheets (20%):** You will be expected to complete and submit (via email) a worksheet for our weekly readings and viewings, starting with Levi (1/22) and ending with Criales. The questions will not be complex but will cover issues such as setting and characterization of south and/or southerners. While some of the questions have a "correct" answer, you should consider this exercise as an aid to your reading and thinking rather than a quiz. Moreover, in "grading" them, I will focus on the effort you expend rather than on whether all your answers are "correct." You will lose 2% for every time you fail to submit your completed answer sheet. There will be 10 worksheets in total. The answers should be written in English. Unless otherwise indicated in class, you should email me your completed question sheets *in advance of each Tuesday class*.

**3. Analysis: Histories and Historiographies (15%):** On completion of module 1, you will select one of our texts (Levi or Visconti) and write (in English) an analysis of its representation of southern history or historiography. Your paper should be at least 2 pages in length (12 pt. font; double-spaced; 1-inch margins). The assignment is due on **February 7**.

**4. Paper 1 (15%):** You will write in Italian a paper of 2-3 pages (12 pt. font; double-spaced; 1-inch margins) on a topic relating to the "analisi e miseria" module. Possible topics will be discussed closer to the due date. The assignment is due on **March 14**.

**5. Final Presentation (10%):** Working in a group of 3-4 students, you will prepare a presentation (10-15 min) to be delivered during the last class. This presentation should provide an analysis of a film not studied over the course of the semester. Your group will be expected to watch the film in full and analyze it in the light of the texts, films, and ideas explored during the semester. Each member of the group will address a different aspect of the film. A list of possible films will be provided during the semester.

**6. Final Research Paper (30%):** You will write (in Italian) a research paper (at least 7 pages in length; double spaced, 1-inch margins, 12 pt. font) reflecting your research on a topic to be selected in consultation with me. Work on this project will be divided into 3 parts: **PAPER PROPOSAL** (April 4, 2%); **OUTLINE & BIBLIOGRAPHY** (April 11, 3%); **PAPER** (April 28, 25%). Your work must be

documented accurately, and all sources should be cited in accordance with MLA style. Secondary sources, whether textual or internet based, must be acknowledged in a clearly prepared bibliography as well as being clearly referenced, where relevant, in the body of the paper. ***COPYING AND PASTING FROM INTERNET SOURCES AND ANY OTHER UNATTRIBUTED USE OF CRITICAL MATERIAL WILL EARN YOU AN E FOR THE ENTIRE COURSE.*** Papers must be handed in 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, written or oral. Papers will be graded with regard not only to content and organization, but also to grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

**FINAL GRADE AT A GLANCE:**

- Attendance and Class Participation, 10%
- Worksheets, 20%
- Analysis: Histories and Historiographies, 15%
- Paper 1, 15%
- Final Presentation, 10%
- Final Research Paper, 30%

**Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):**

<b>A</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>E</b>
100-93 (4.0)	92-90 (3.67)	89-87 (3.33)	86-83 (3.0)	82-80 (2.67)	79-77 (2.33)	76-73 (2.0)	72-70 (1.67)	69-67 (1.33)	63-66 (1.0)	62-60 (0.67)	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>;  
<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: REPRESENTING "HUMBLE ITALY"**  
*Schedule is subject to change over the course of the semester*



READING (R)/VIEWING (V)	Tuesday 5/6	Thursday 6
<b>MODULE 1: QUESTIONE MERIDIONALE: STORIE E STORIOGRAFIE</b>		
<b>Thurs. (R):</b> "Questione meridionale"	1/08 Course Introduction	1/10 Southern Question
<b>Tues. (R):</b> "Questione meridionale"	1/15 Southern Question	1/17 Levi, 3-4
<b>Thurs. (R):</b> Levi, <i>Cristo si è fermato a Eboli</i> , 1		
<b>Tues. (R):</b> Levi, <i>Cristo si è fermato a Eboli</i> : "Doppia natura," 1-5; "Due Italie," 6-12	1/22 Levi: la "doppia natura" e le 2 Italie	1/24 Negating History: Lampedusa
<b>Thurs. (R):</b> Lampedusa, <i>Il gattopardo</i> , 1-2		
<b>Tues. (V):</b> Visconti, <i>Il gattopardo</i> (dvd)	1/29 Negating History: Visconti	1/31 "Verismo e questione meridionale" e "Rosso Malpelo"
<b>Thurs. (R):</b> "Verismo e questione meridionale"; "Rosso Malpelo" (p.1)		
<b>MODULE 2: SUD: ANALISI E MISERIA</b>		
<b>Tues. (R):</b> Verga, "Rosso Malpelo" (finish)	2/5 "Rosso Malpelo"	2/7 Serao
<b>Thurs. (R):</b> Serao, <i>Il ventre di Napoli</i> (p.1)		<b>Historiography Analysis</b>
<b>Tues. (R):</b> Serao, <i>Il ventre di Napoli</i> (finish)	2/12 Serao	2/14 Alvaro
<b>Thurs. (R)</b> Alvaro, <i>Gente in Aspromonte</i> (p.1-2)		
<b>Tues. (R)</b> Alvaro, <i>Gente in Aspromonte</i> (finish)	2/19 Alvaro	2/21 Ortese
<b>Thurs. (R):</b> Ortese, "Un paio di occhiali" (p.1)		
<b>Tues. (R):</b> Ortese, "Un paio di occhiali" (finish)	2/26 Ortese	2/28 Mafia, Omertà & Law
<b>Thurs. (R):</b> Sciascia, <i>Il giorno della civetta</i> , 8-13 (L'autobus [...] hanno sparato?)		
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	3/5 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	3/7 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>
<b>MODULE 3: MAFIA E STATO</b>		
<b>Tues. (R):</b> Sciascia, <i>Il giorno della civetta</i> , 13-62 (Sì, alle sei e trenta [...] al ministro Mancuso...).	3/12	3/14 <b>paper 1</b>
<b>Tues. (R):</b> Sciascia, <i>Il giorno della civetta</i> , 63-119 (Le ventiquattro ore del fermo di polizia [...] a voce alta)	3/19	3/21
<b>Tues. (V):</b> Wertmuller, <i>Mimi metallurgico ferito nell'onore</i> ( <i>Seduction of Mimi</i> - kanopy)	3/26 Mafia e metafora	3/28
<b>MODULE 4: SUD E MODERNITÀ</b>		
<b>Tues. (V):</b> Crialesse, <i>Nuovomondo</i> (dvd); <b>Thurs. (V):</b> Crialesse, <i>Terraferma</i> (kanopy)	4/2 Migrations	4/4 <b>Paper Proposal</b>
<b>Tues. (V):</b> Germi, <i>Divorzio all'italiana</i> (kanopy)	4/9	4/11 <b>Outline/Biblio</b>
<b>NO READING/NO VIEWING</b>	4/16 Paper workshop	4/18
<b>NO READING/NO VIEWING</b>	4/23 <b>Final Presentations</b>	

**REMINDER:** Final paper should be emailed to [dambers@ufl.edu](mailto:dambers@ufl.edu) by 5pm on April 28.

## PARTICIPATION RUBRIC

	<b>A: 90%- 100%</b>	<b>B: 80%-89%</b>	<b>C: 70%-79%</b>	<b>D: 60%-69%</b>	<b>E: 0-59%</b>
Participation	<p>Answers and asks questions in every class</p> <p>Participates enthusiastically in all class discussion</p> <p>Remains alert and focused on class discussion</p>	<p>Asks and answers questions in most class meetings.</p> <p>Participates enthusiastically in most class discussion</p> <p>Mostly alert and focused on class discussion</p>	<p>Ask and answers questions in at least half of the classes</p> <p>Occasionally participates in class discussion</p> <p>Frequently distracted, but alert more often than not</p>	<p>Speaks only when called upon by instructor</p> <p>Generally unenthusiastic about class</p> <p>Rarely focused on class activities; plays with phone; generally distracted</p>	Absent
Preparation	Always comes to class having completed assigned readings or viewings	Completes assigned readings and viewings most of the time	Completes assigned readings and viewings at least half of the time	Only occasionally completes assigned readings and viewings	Absent
Quality of Comments	<p>Comments always insightful &amp; constructive</p> <p>Comments reflect content of assigned homework and also show personal consideration or reflection on questions raised by homework</p>	<p>Comments mostly insightful &amp; constructive</p> <p>Comments mostly reflect content of assigned homework, but are occasionally too general or not entirely relevant to the discussion.</p>	<p>Comments sometimes constructive, with occasional signs of insight.</p> <p>Comments not always relevant to discussion and often show no evidence of homework preparation</p>	<p>Comments superficial, and mostly off topic.</p> <p>No evidence of having prepared readings. Relies on opinion &amp; personal taste, e.g., “mi piace,” “non mi piace.”</p>	Absent
Use of Italian	<p>Always speaks in Italian when asking questions or working in groups</p> <p>Avoids speaking English in class or asks permission to speak briefly in English</p>	<p>Speaks Italian most of the time</p> <p>Occasionally lapses into English, but quickly returns to Italian</p>	<p>Speaks Italian at least half of the time</p> <p>Frequently lapses into English and seems unconcerned or unapologetic about doing so</p>	Rarely speaks Italian or uses only a few words	Absent
Engagement in Group Work	<p>Actively participates in group work.</p> <p>Student listens attentively while others speak or present, as indicated by comments that reflect &amp; build on others’ remarks</p>	<p>Mostly participates in group work</p> <p>Mostly attentive when others speak or present.</p>	<p>Sometimes inattentive during group work; needs to be reminded to focus on activity</p> <p>Occasionally makes disruptive comments while others are speaking.</p>	<p>Only occasionally focused attention on topic of group work</p> <p>Does not listen to others; regularly talks while others speak or does not pay attention while others speak; detracts from discussion; sleeps, etc.</p>	Absent