

ITW 4253 Delitto all'italiana
Scena del delitto: Giallo italiano tra identità locale e cultura globale
Course Syllabus
Fall 2024



Instructor	Deborah Amberson
Meetings – Time	T period 7 (1:55-2:45); R period 7-8 (1:55-2:45; 3:00-3:50)
Meetings – Place	Tuesday PUGH 120; Thursday LIT 0223
Office	Dauer 355
Office Hours	TR 12:30-1:40
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: *Delitto all'italiana: Scena del delitto* will consider Italian crime fiction and film from the perspective of place, exploring this global genre in a sampling of its Italian incarnations. As such, while our discussion will consider some questions relating to generic history and norms (British vs. American; canon vs. popular), our attention will be focused, for the most part, on the specifically Italian colors of the giallo. In particular, we will consider how the local shapes these crime stories, considering the role played by Italian spaces and their inhabitants, dialects or local customs, regional histories or cultures.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the conclusion of the course, it is expected that students will:

- be equipped with an understanding of the socio-historical evolution of crime fiction
- be able to assess questions of setting in the context of international crime fiction
- be able to engage critically with a variety of Italian manipulations of generic conventions
- demonstrate an ability to critically assess the regional identities of Italian crime fiction

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Amara Lakhous, *Scontro di civiltà' per un ascensore in Piazza Vittorio* (2011, E/O)
- <https://www.amazon.com/Scontro-civiltà-ascensore-Vittorio-Italian/dp/8876418091>
- <https://www.abebooks.com/>
- All other readings will be made available on Canvas

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Final Grade at a Glance:

1. Class Participation, 10%
2. Reading Team Reports, 10%
3. Writing Sessions, 5%
4. Short Paper, 15%
5. Mid-Semester Podcast and Discussion, 10%
6. Critical Article Discussion, 5%
7. Group Project: Progetto per un giallo italiano, 10%
8. Final Oral Exam, 10%
9. 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.
- All written assignments should be submitted through **Canvas**. All 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.
- In the case of **presentations**, each individual student must **upload notes and visual supports**. If you do **NOT** upload your materials, you will **NOT** receive a grade for the assignment.

1. Class Participation (10%): Students are expected to contribute actively and regularly to in-class discussion. So, when you come to class, you should be ready to speak and ask questions. Class participation is not about having all the right answers or expressing yourself in perfect Italian. Instead, participation is a question of preparing your homework as best you can and being alert and active in class. It is about expressing your uncertainties as much as it is about sharing your opinion. It is also about listening to your classmates' opinions and responding when and where you can. Your participation grade will reflect your overall attitude and willingness to engage. It will also reflect the frequency and quality of your interventions in class. **See rubrics folder for detailed participation rubric.**

2. Reading Team Reports (10%): You will be expected to partner up with one other student and meet for at least 30 minutes – in person or online – to discuss your comprehension of the assigned readings. The goal of this assignment is to provide you with a sounding board regarding your understanding of the week's assigned work. You can compare what you have understood, share your interpretations and ideas, and address any doubts you might have had regarding the content of the reading. After your meetings, each member of the reading team

should submit via Canvas their own individual report (written in English; at least 1.5 pages in length) indicating when and for how long you met and describing what you discussed. You should provide a clear picture of your conversation, detailing the ideas you discussed. You can also share ideas that might have come to you afterwards as a result of your discussion. It is a good idea to cite (briefly) the assigned reading(s) in your report as this will reinforce the points you make. You will lose more than 1.5% every time you fail to submit your report. There will be 6 reading reports in total. **See course calendar for due dates.**

3. Writing Sessions (5%): Over the course of the semester, we will have four 15-minute in-class writing sessions. For each writing session, you will be asked to respond to a specific question with a paragraph-length answer. You will write this answer in class in Italian with pen and paper. Writing sessions will take place during our Thursday classes.

4. Short Paper (15%): You will be expected to write a short paper of 2-3 pages (double-spaced, 12 pt. font; 1-inch margins). This paper will be written in Italian on a topic to be established in class. **Short paper is due by on Saturday 10/5**

5. Midsemester Podcast and Discussion (10%): Working with a classmate, you should prepare a pre-recorded podcast-style report in Italian addressing the content of one of our assigned readings. This recording should be approximately 10 minutes in length and will be played in class. You can approach the assignment as if you were doing a news report or a true crime documentary on your chosen reading. Your work should include specific details from the text. You should also allow yourselves to be creative. **Your podcast report should be ready to be played in class on Thursday 10/17.**

6. Critical Article Discussion (5%): When we work on Lakhous, we will also read a related critical article. In class, we will have a discussion of this article. You will be expected to read the article and prepare questions for this discussion. You will also be asked to respond to the questions formulated by your classmates. **The discussion will take place on Thursday 10/31**

7. Final Presentation: Progetto per un giallo italiano (10%): Working in groups of 2, you will develop a creative presentation in which you share a plan for an Italian set giallo. You will share plot and characters with the class, explaining, in particular, your choices for the setting of your Progetto per un giallo italiano. You should also incorporate ChatGPT to write a dialogue between some of your characters. **Presentations will be delivered on 11/19-11/21.**

8. Final Oral Exam (10%): We will close the semester with individually scheduled oral exams in Italian. You will be provided with a list of the topics on which the exam will be based. You can prepare notes in advance of your scheduled exam, but your performance should not involve reading these notes. Our conversation should be as spontaneous as possible. Your grade will reflect the quality of your content and the accuracy of your Italian. **Oral Exams will take place during the last week of the semester.**

9. Final Paper (25%): You will be expected to write a paper of 8 pages in length reflecting your thinking and research on the representation of place in the work of one or more of the authors studied over the course of the semester. Work on the final project will be divided into 3 parts: a **proposal** (Nov. 7, 2%), an **outline & bibliography** (Nov. 14, 3%), and the **paper** itself (Dec. 9, 20%). Papers must be submitted on the due date unless you have received written permission to extend the deadline or unless you have a signed medical excuse explaining your delay.

Papers will be graded with regard not only to content and organization, but also to grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Secondary sources, textual or web based, must be acknowledged. **UNATTRIBUTED USE OF SOURCES WILL EARN YOU AN E FOR THE COURSE.**

Papers should be uploaded to Canvas as Microsoft word document by 9pm on December 9.

CLASS POLICIES:

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.

Academic Honesty: Students are required to be honest in their coursework, may not use notes during quizzes, 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 UF's honor code, see <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with Dean of Students Office. Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must provide this documentation to instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact Disability Resources Center for information about available resources: <https://disability.ufl.edu/>

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 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/>

COURSE CALENDAR: ITW 4253 DELITTO ALL'ITALIANA

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

T 7; R 7-8	READING & VIEWING
8/22	Course Introduction & gialli internazionali e ambientazione
8/27-8/29	(T) Pezzotti, "Introduction"; Camilleri, "Difesa di un colore" (R) Todorov, "Typology of Detective Fiction"
9/3-9/5	(T) Gadda, <i>Quer pasticciaccio brutto de via Merulana</i> (1957) (excerpt) Reading Report #1 due by Tuesday's class
9/10-9/12	(T) Sciascia, <i>Il giorno della civetta</i> (1961), 8-33 (L'autobus [...] il mio voglio dire.) (R) Sciascia, <i>Il giorno della civetta</i> , 33-62 (Sì, alle sei e trenta [...] al ministro Mancuso.) Reading Report #2 due by Tuesday's class
9/17-9/19	(T) Sciascia, <i>Il giorno della civetta</i> , 63-119 (Le ventiquattro ore del fermo [...] a voce alta) (R) Sciascia, <i>Il giorno della civetta</i> , finish reading/discussion Reading Report #3 due by Tuesday's class
9/24-9/26	(T) Soldati, "I bei denti del sciur Dino" (1967) WATCH: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WvRYu8L2wc Reading Report #4 due by Tuesday's class
10/1-10/3	(T) Scerbanenco, "Milan by calibro 9" (1969) WATCH: <i>Caliber 9</i> (trailer) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNw_eRFafqs Short Paper due by Thursday 10/5
10/8-10/10	(T) Camilleri, "Gli arancini di Montalbano" (1999) Camilleri legge: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9ArFUqp5tQ&list=PL4RoDvd7UHcDQkVf96Q_iOe_p4sEkqicW&index=6 WATCH: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=js74ASrRbxM&list=PL7ZiDSE-jUWKd4K459nqGM25fkZleRhS WATCH: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEE-7yg6vIQ Reading Report #5 due by Tuesday's class
10/15-10/17	(TR) Midsemester Podcast
10/22-10/24	(T) Lakhous, <i>Scontro di civiltà</i> (2006), 9-74 (up to end terzo ululato) (R) Lakhous, <i>Scontro di civiltà</i> (2006), 75-128 (Elisabetta Fabiani – end settimo ululato) WATCH Trailer x 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgP2aFkJino ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeuVC-RIHBo Reading Report #6 due by Tuesday's class
10/29-10/31	(T) Lakhous, <i>Scontro di civiltà</i> , 129-187 (Sandro Dandini – end of text) (R) McGuire, "Crimes of Diction: Language & National Belonging in the Fiction of Lakhous"
11/5-11/7	Rocco Schiavone, <i>Ice Cold Murders</i> , Black Slope parts 1 & 2 https://www.amazon.com/Rocco-Schiavone/dp/B07BLJB91B Paper Proposal due by 11/7
11/12-11/14	Housekeeping and writing workshop Outline & Bibliography due by 11/14
11/19-11/21	(T) PRESENTATIONS: Progetto per un giallo italiano
11/24-11/26	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
12/3	(T) Feedback