



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

ITAL 405.05

**SELECTED WORKS IN ITALIAN LITERATURE (TALES AT THE MARGINS)**

Lectures: MWF 14:00 – 14:50

Location: CHE 106

Winter 2018

COURSE OUTLINE

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** MADONA MARKAJ

**OFFICE LOCATION:** CHD 323

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday, 15:00 – 17:00

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 403-909-0492

**E-Mail:** mmarkaj@ucalgary.ca

**DESCRIPTION**

Since its unification Italy's history has been characterized by tensions: north/south, center/margin, rich/poor, church/state, local/foreigner to name only a few. Still now questions about identity, tradition, inclusivity, diversity and the "other" are hotly debated. We will address these issues through topics in cultural studies: economics, politics, gender, immigration, mental health, religion, etc. Through the study of short stories, poems and film the course will hone your skills in textual and film analysis, provide tools for more complex understanding of literature, as well as develop critical thinking. Authors/directors: Verga, Pirandello, Marinetti, Svevo, Campana, Moravia, Primo Levi, De Sica, Rossellini, Calvino, Maraini, Merini.

**OBJECTIVES**

This course aims to prepare the students to engage with the Italian literary tradition. The objectives of this course are manifold:

- to provide the students with the necessary analytical tools to decode a short literary text in Italian, particularly focusing on the concept of marginality.
- to provide an introduction to Italian Literature which includes the historical background of Italy's Unification and first steps as a nation, arriving until post WWII.
- to show how to recognize and trace ideas in short literary texts
- to familiarize the students with some of the greatest figures of Italian literature since Italy's unification, such as Verga, Pirandello, Marinetti, Svevo, Campana, Primo Levi, Moravia, Maraini, Merini.
- to explain the main characteristics of analytical writing, and of close reading.

**OUTCOMES**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- analyze a literary text and film scene in depth.
- Know the sonnet form, the short story form, and film.
- Follow the development of an idea in a text, and in multiple texts through time.
- Reach an understanding of the complex dynamics that lie at the foundation of Italy as a Nation, particularly looking at who was left at the margins of history.
- Become familiar with some of the most important figures and books in late XIX- XX c. Italian literature, including Verga, Pirandello, Svevo, Campana, Primo Levi, Moravia, Rosi, Maraini, Merini.
- Produce an interpretative essay or creative project focusing on one text or more.



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**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

Active class participation	15%
Oral Presentation	10%
Assignments (2 at 10% each)	20%
Written exams (2 at 20% and 10% each)	30%
Final paper	25%

**GRADING SCALE**

A+ = 100-96 A = 95-91 A- =90-86

B+ = 85-81 B = 80-76 B- =75-71

C+ = 70-67 C = 66-62 C- = 61-58

D+ = 57-54 D = 53-50 F = 49%-0%

The official grading system (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1) will be applied for the calculation of the final mark

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Reading material will be provided in PDF format on D2L and hard copies will be distributed in class.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

Any textbook of Italian grammar and syntax.

Any good Italian-English, English-Italian dictionary for advanced students.

Any additional resource provided via D2L.

**COURSE NOTES**

The course will consist in class readings, writing and communicative activities: analyses and seminar discussions will be in Italian. Active participation in class will be expected and encouraged.

Active participation is defined as coming to class prepared to discuss the reading, and to ask questions about the reading.

Oral Presentations: Students will prepare and deliver a 10-minute in-class presentation about the class material, including being prepared to answer other students' questions. It would be beneficial you to discuss the topic of your final paper.

Writing Assignments: throughout the term students will write 2 short essays of 500/600 words each on topics of their choice among those covered in class.

Written exams: they will evaluate students' knowledge of the fundamental aspects of Italian history, language, and culture covered in class. Students will be asked to write a composition and analyze selected poems, short stories or movie scenes among those read or watched in class.

There will be no final examination.



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Final paper: the paper will deal extensively with a theme discussed in class. The topic will be agreed with the instructor. The paper will have a length of 5/7 pages, in Italian.

- Late assignments and missed tests policy:  
Missed tests and missed assignments will be counted as an incomplete and will contribute to the calculation of the mark.
- Electronic submission of assignments: assignments will be submitted in paper copy to the teacher and in word/format via email to your instructor by due deadline.

The Department's drop-box, located in the foyer area of the third floor in Craigie Hall between blocks D and available for depositing assignments and course work. The material placed in the drop-box will be collected and at the beginning and at the end of the working day

#### ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:  
a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);  
b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;  
c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or  
d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted." Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

#### DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services office at 403-210-6019 or [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and



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accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/)

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS**

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)  
Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)  
Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)  
For the complete list of assembly points please consult <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

**FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:  
[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

**INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

**SAFEWALK**

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

**STUDENT UNION INFORMATION**

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>



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**WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM**

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.