



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

ITAL 405.07
Italian Renaissance Drama
Winter 2020
MF 14:00 - 15:15 CHE 102

REVISED COURSE OUTLINE – March 2020

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Eleonora Buonocore

OFFICE LOCATION: CH C 320

OFFICE HOURS: M – W 12 to 12:50 pm or by appointment

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DESCRIPTION

What is a Renaissance Play? What characterizes a good play? When did theatre become a form used in Italian Literature? Who wrote plays? Why? Who commissioned the plays? What were their main themes? The aim of this course is to familiarize the students with Italian Drama in the Renaissance. On the one hand the students will discover the beginning of Italian Theatre and discover a different side of Niccolò Machiavelli, a writer mostly known for his political thought, and less for his talent at playwriting. Specifically we will read and analyze *La mandragola*, *The Mandrake root*, in its entirety, considering it as a masterpiece and a model for many other plays in the Renaissance. We will also explore the context of city academies such as the Intronati in Siena, including reading one of their most famous plays, *Gli ingannati* (*The Deceived*). Secondly, the course will explore the historical context of Italian history in the Renaissance, paying particular attention to the development of the Signorie in Italian Cities, the rise of humanism and the politics of gender. Finally, we will analyze the structure of a play in the Renaissance and its relationship to plays in the tradition of the Greek and Latin Classic, such as Plautus and Menander.

Our goal is to arrive to an understanding of what is meant by the word "play." We will analyze it and we will try to stage it, as well as reflect on the connection between the play as a literary work and the performance as an act rooted in a specific historical moment. In order to do so, the students will read selections from Machiavelli first play *L'Andria*, then the entirety of *La Mandragola*, and finally excerpts from Gli Intronati play, *Gli Ingannati*. This will allow them to uncover the common tropes, and the language of Renaissance Italian Play. We will investigate the themes of love, politics, ethics and the power of rhetoric. In addition we will reflect on what it means to read and stage a Renaissance play now, in modern day Canada, and understand the challenges and opportunities that could arise from this performance.

OBJECTIVES

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

- to provide students with the necessary analytical tools to decode a play in Renaissance Italian, particularly focusing on the development of cities, the rise of the merchant class and the politics of gender.
- to provide an introduction to Renaissance Italian Literature which includes the historical background of Medieval and Renaissance Italy.
- to show how to recognize and trace ideas in literary texts.
- to familiarize students with the literary side of a great figure in Renaissance Italian literature, Machiavelli, and with the context of literary academies, such as Gli Intronati.
- to practice public speaking in Italian, improve pronunciation and intonation.



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- to reinforce the skills of analytical writing, of textual analysis and of close reading.
- to learn how to read aloud a play in Italian, and to develop strategies for acting it out and putting it up on a stage

OUTCOMES

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

- analyze a play in depth.
- recognize the theatrical form of a play, its origins and development in Renaissance Italian Literature.
- follow the development of an idea in a text, and in multiple texts through time.
- Know the basic history of Italy in the Renaissance, especially the development of urban culture, of the Signorie, and the role that women had in this historical process.
- Reach an understanding of the complex dynamics that lie at the foundation of Italian Literature in the vernacular, and specifically of the role of Machiavelli in this process.
- Become familiar with Niccolò Machiavelli's plays.
- Read aloud, act out and set on stage an Italian play.
- Present a scene analysis in front of their peers and to discuss the main points of a section of a play
- Produce an interpretative essay focusing on an important theme in a selected Renaissance Italian play.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Active class participation

(includes participate to Zoom classes or if that not possible contributing to the class blog) 15%

Oral or VIDEO Presentations (2 at 5% each) 10%

Writing Assignments (2 at 10% each) 20%

Written exams (1- in class at 20% and 1 – take home at 10%) 30%

Final paper 25%

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-96^{SEP} A= 95-91 A- =90-86

B+ = 85-81^{SEP} B =80-76 B- =75-71

C+ = 70-67^{SEP} C= 66-62 C- =61-58

D+ = 57-54^{SEP} 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

- 1) Niccolò Machiavelli, David Sices, and James B. Atkinson. *The comedies of Machiavelli*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Pub. 2007. (Available at the Book Store)
- 2) Beecher, Donald, and Massimo Ciavolella. *The Deceived: A New English Translation of Gl'ingannati in a Dual-Language Edition*. New York: Italica Press, 2018. (Available at the Book Store)
- 3) Additional material provided in PDF format on D2L

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Any textbook of Italian grammar and syntax.

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



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COURSE NOTES

- The course will consist in class readings, writing and communicative activities (including skits/ improv on the subject of the play): analyses and seminar discussions will be in Italian. Regular attendance is strongly recommended.
- Active participation is warmly encouraged. Active participation is defined as coming to class prepared to discuss the reading, and to ask questions about the reading. Lack of attendance or of participation will adversely affect your overall performance and will have a negative impact on your final grade. The instructor should be informed of any reasons for prolonged absence.
- There will be many co-curricular events organized this semesters, students are required to attend at least 1 co- curricular event as part of their participation grade.
- In general, attendance to co-curricular events is encouraged in order to have more occasions to practice your language skills, and can help make up absences for your participation grade as well as be counted as extra-credit (when you submit a write-up describing the event you participated to).
- Students are strongly encouraged to communicate consistently on the target language and to attend IL CIRCOLINO (CHC 318) to practice Italian.

Oral/ Video Presentations: Students will prepare and deliver two 10-minute in-class or VIDEO presentations about the class material, and will lead the class discussion, including being prepared to answer other students' questions.

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 (they could be also the same or a similar topic to those of their presentation).

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 among those read in class.

There will be no final examination.

Final paper: the paper will deal extensively with a theme discussed in class (it can also be a reflective piece on the play). The topic will be agreed with the instructor. The paper will have a length of 5 pages, in Italian.

- Late assignments and missed tests policy:
Due to the Covid-19 emergency you are kindly requested to please to let your instructor know immediately you cannot meet the deadlines specified for an exam and/or for any assignment, so that your instructor can work with you to consider alternative dates/assessments.
- Electronic submission of assignments: Assignments will be submitted in paper copy to the teacher, double spaced, printed and stapled by the due deadline. (In case this is not possible word/pdf format via email to eleonora.buonocore@ucalgary.ca can be accepted).

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.



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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.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.



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Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>).

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

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 Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

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.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

A link to required information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources, can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.