



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

ITAL 599.10  
Petrarch and Petrarchism in Europe  
Winter 2020  
M/F 15:30-16:45

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Dr. Eleonora Buonocore

**OFFICE LOCATION:** CH C 320

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

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 403 220-4414

**E-MAIL:** eleonora.buonocore@ucalgary.ca

**DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on Petrarch's *Rerum Vulgarium Fragmenta*, most commonly known as *Il Canzoniere*, a masterpiece of world literature and a crucial text that lays at the foundation of European culture. The course will begin by analyzing Petrarch's poetic production, exploring its different lyrical forms and how they are used to convey different contents. In particular, we will examine Petrarch's poetic exploration of universal themes such as love, art and politics. We will read selections from the *Canzoniere* in order to understand Petrarch's intellectual trajectory and his goals in writing his feelings and thoughts and in inscribing his love story in a poetic framework. We will examine the *Canzoniere's* roots in Classical culture, especially the role Virgil and Ovid as models, as well as the influence of other Italian poets, such as Dante.

Our course will then focus on the strong impact that the *Canzoniere* had in Italian and European Culture in the XV and XVI centuries. We will analyze many poets that consider themselves "Petrarchist" both in Italy and across Europe, and we will determine what constituted the fundamental characters of Petrarchism. In Italy we will discuss how Petrarch became a model for any poetry in Italian, and as such how he became one of the three Crowns of the Italian literature, a fundamental player in shaping Italian Language. We will read the poems of great women poets such as Gaspara Stampa, Vittoria Colonna, and Veronica Gambara, as well as the famous grammarian Pietro Bembo and the immortal artist and poet Michelangelo Buonarroti.

We will conclude the course by discussing Petrarch's influence in the larger European context, including the presence of many Petrarchist poets in France, Spain and England.

**OBJECTIVES**

This course aims to introduce the students to Petrarch's *Rerum Vulgarium Fragmenta*, (*Il Canzoniere*), and to place it and its influences (the literary movement known as Petrarchism) in the context of Italian and European History and Literature. The objectives of this course are manifold:

- to explain the context surrounding Petrarch's *Rerum Vulgarium Fragmenta*, and familiarize students with European History of the early Renaissance XIV c. to XVI c.
- to explore Petrarch's sources in the Classical tradition, including Virgil and Ovid
- to provide the students with the tools to recognize Petrarch's poetic style, starting from the poetic forms "sonnet" "canzone" "sestina".
- to recognize the key aspect of Petrarchist poetry, in terms both of form and content (main themes/issues) and to be familiar with key Petrarchist figures in Italy and in Europe.



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- to analyze the crucial philosophical, political and moral issues at play in the *Canzoniere*, including Petrarch's struggles between his love for Laura and the Christian theological ethics of his times, as well as Petrarch's political stance, and his contribution to Humanism.
- to discern and interpret the new Renaissance concepts of individual and how it Petrarch's poetry contributed to the spreading of both Humanism and the Sonnet form throughout Italy and Europe.

**OUTCOMES**

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

- Create short analytic pieces demonstrating their understanding of the principal issues at play in a specific sonnet/ canzone/ sestina of the *Canzoniere* or comparing two poems taken from the *RVF*, or an authentic Petrarch poem with a poem written by a Petrarchist author.
- Identify key issues in the *Canzoniere*, and point out their significance in the context of the collection of poems and of the later influence that Petrarch had in Europe.
- Be able to follow the development of Petrarch's intellectual and moral trajectory throughout the text of the *Canzoniere*, and acknowledge his sources in the Classical and Italian tradition.
- Reach an understanding of the philosophical and theological basis of the *Canzoniere* and how they inform Petrarch's structuring of his lifelong collection of poems.
- Sustain a discussion on the *Canzoniere* and on Petrarch's role in Early Renaissance European Literature and on the importance of Petrarchism as a European poetic movement.
- Be able to present the literary qualities of the Petrarch's poetry as well as the main themes of the *Canzoniere* and of European Petrarchist poetry to an audience and be prepared to reply to questions
- Produce a longer interpretative essay focusing on one or more poems from the *Canzoniere* or on a specific Petrarchan theme/issue as related to the diffusion of Renaissance culture in Europe

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

Active class participation 15%  
1 Oral Presentation 10%  
2 Written Assignments (2 at 10% each) = 20%  
2 Written exams (1 at 20% and 1 at 10%) =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**

- 1) Petrarca, Francesco, and Robert M. Durling. *Petrarch's Lyric Poems: The Rime Sparse and Other Lyrics*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2001
- 2) Cirigliano, Marc A. *Melancolia Poetica: A Dual Language Anthology of Italian Poetry, 1160-1560*. Leicester, UK: Troubador Pub, 2007
- 3) Additional material provided in PDF format on D2L.



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#### RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Ovid, *The Metamorphoses*, any edition

Shakespeare, *Sonnets*, any edition

Any textbook of Italian grammar and syntax.

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

#### COURSE NOTES

The course will consist in class readings, writing, and group communicative and interpretative activities: analyses and seminar discussions will be in Italian. Active participation in class will be expected and encouraged. Students will read the text of the *Canzoniere* in Italian and peruse the footnotes to clarify hard points, in addition they might glance at the translation when insecure about the Italian, but they should come to class prepared to discuss the key points of the text in Italian.

Active participation is defined as coming to class prepared to discuss the readings in Italian, and to ask questions about the readings, at least one question for each class period is required.

Oral Presentations: Students will prepare and deliver one 15-minutes in-class presentations about the class material, 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 (i.e. the principal issues at play in a specific sonnet/ canzone/ sestina of the *Canzoniere* or comparing two poems taken from the *RVF*, or an authentic Petrarch poem with a poem written by a Petrarchist author, etc.)

Written exams: they will evaluate students' knowledge of the key themes and the structure of the *Canzoniere* as well as test their understanding of Petrarchist poems/themes. Students will be asked to write a composition and analyze selected passages chosen among those poems of the *Canzoniere* or of the Petrarchist tradition that we read in class.

There will be no final examination.

Final paper: the paper will deal extensively with a theme discussed in class (i.e. focusing on one or more poems from the *Canzoniere* or on a specific thematic issue in the *Canzoniere* or in the *Petrarchist tradition* as it relates to European Renaissance culture). The topic will be agreed with the instructor. The paper will have a length of 6/8 pages, in Italian.

- Late assignments and missed tests policy:
  - o Missed tests and missed assignments will result in a F.
- Electronic submission of assignments: assignments will be submitted in paper copy to the teacher and in word/format via email to [eleonora.buonocore@ucalgary.ca](mailto:eleonora.buonocore@ucalgary.ca) 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.



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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](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](https://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](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).

**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>.