



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

ITAL 599.15
Topics in Italian Studies II (Italian Renaissance Drama)
W2021
MF 15:30 - 16:45 (Web Based)

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Eleonora Buonocore

OFFICE HOURS: M 11 am – 11:50 am [<https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/99617491348>]
W 12pm – 12.50 pm [<https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/99617491348>] or by appointment (please use email)

E-MAIL: Eleonora.buonocore@ucalgary.ca

I will try my best to give a timely response, but as a policy, I will respond to e-mails within 48 hours during weekdays and within 72 hours during weekends

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 403 -993 -7877 (only for emergencies)

DESCRIPTION

What is Italian Renaissance Drama? What are the characteristics of a Renaissance Play? In which contexts were the plays written, read, performed? For which public? With what purpose? What do Italian Renaissance plays teach us of the civilization of the Italian Renaissance, and in particular of court culture?

The aim of this course is to explore the development of Italian Drama in the Renaissance. In order to do so the students will discover the beginning of Italian erudite theatre in the Renaissance, and its connection to both humanism and the rise of the courts. We will investigate the structure of a play in the Renaissance and its connection to plays in the tradition of Greek and Latin Classic authors, such as Plautus and Menander. We will look closely at the emblematic life and works of the Italian intellectual Pietro Aretino. Specifically, we will read and analyze Pietro Aretino's *La Cortigiana*, placing it in its context, and also understanding its complex relationship with Baldassarre Castiglione's *Il Cortegiano*. As a counter for Aretino unconventional life, we will finish by reading a spiritual play by Giovan Maria Cecchi, *Contempt for Love and Earthly Beauty*, as an example of the religious theatrical production in the Italian Renaissance. We will end by discussing the influence of Italian Renaissance Drama on the birth of new genres such as the Commedia dell'Arte and Opera.

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 courts and the politics of gender.
- to provide an introduction to Renaissance Italian Literature which includes the historical background of Medieval and Renaissance Italy.
- to familiarize students with a lesser-known great figure in Renaissance Italian literature, Pietro Aretino, and with the context of religious and spiritual drama.
- To understand the role that Renaissance drama played in the development of later theatrical forms such as Commedia dell'Arte and Opera.
- to practice public speaking in Italian, improve pronunciation and intonation.
- to reinforce the skills of analytical writing, of textual analysis and of close reading.



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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.
- 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.
- Become familiar with Pietro Aretino's plays and with his role in Italian Literature
- Understand the context and importance of Italian religious plays
- Read aloud, act out and set on stage an Italian play.
- Present a scene analysis and 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.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- 1) Aretino, Pietro, *Cortigiana (1525)*. Ed. Transl By Campbell and Sprocchi, Published By Dovehouse Editions Canada (2003) [Available at the UoC Bookstore]
- 2) Giovan Maria Cecchi, *Five Plays for the Archangel Raphael*. Published By Centre For Reformation And Renaissance Studies, University Of Toronto, (2020) [Available at the UoC Bookstore]

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

- 1) Baldassare Castiglione, *Il Libro del Cortegiano*, Mursia Ed. (2011)

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 communicative activities (including skits/improv on the subject of the play): analyses and seminar discussions on Zoom will be in Italian.
- Regular attendance to all synchronous class meetings is strongly recommended. Active participation is warmly encouraged. Active participation is defined as connecting to the zoom link with your camera and your audio ON. Please dress as if you were in an in-person class. It is essential that you do your homework and read the materials before class. Students will read the text of the plays in translation and peruse the footnotes and the scholarly apparatus to clarify hard points. Participation includes being prepared and ready to give active and positive contributions to class interactions, including the breakout sessions. 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.
- Class meetings will be recorded and posted on D2L in order to facilitate personal study and review of material. Please come on time to our Zoom meetings and behave as if we were in an in-person class. No outside use of technology will be allowed other than what you need to access zoom with Video and Audio ON. It is considered good class etiquette to respond to the questions the instructor poses in the breakout session and to contribute actively to the class discussion. If you have a question on the material, please write it in the class chat or raise your hand. Questions are always welcome!



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- Attendance to at least two co-curricular events is mandatory, attendance all co-curricular events is warmly encouraged in order to have more occasions to encounter Italian culture 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 in the target language during the synchronous web-based class meetings and to attend the Web based zoom meetings of IL CIRCOLINO to practice Italian and to review their writing.

Important dates:

- Web-based class meetings will start on Monday January 11th.
- There will be no class for Good Friday or on Easter Monday, April 2nd and April 5th.
- Term break will be the week of February 14th – 20th.
- The two written exam (2 D2L Quizzes – to be completed in a 48 hours period) will take place on February 12th, March 29th.
- The writing assignment is due February 19th
- Video Presentation will be uploaded to a dedicated D2L folder by March 15th.
- The Final Written Paper will be uploaded to a dedicated D2L folder by April 15th.
- Web-based class meetings will end on Thursday, April 15th.
- Attendance at all tests and examinations is mandatory. Exams will be administered online through D2L quizzes. The Quiz will last a class period (50 mins, but the students will be allowed 100 minutes to complete it in order to account for technological issues). Students will be allowed a period of 48 hours to access the Quiz. Missed tests, assignments and examinations will be given a grade of F. A student who is absent /unable to take the test in the 48h period for legitimate reasons must inform the instructor immediately and an alternative course of action may be considered.
- Written exams: 2 D2L Quizzes – to be completed in a 48 hours period. 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 scenes from the plays among those read in class.
- Writing Assignment: throughout the term students will write 1 short essay 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).
- Video Presentation: Students will prepare and deliver one 5-minutes Video presentations about the class material, one scene of a play or an important character or issue in the text.
- Final Written Paper: the paper will deal extensively with a theme discussed in class and it can also be a reflective piece on one entre play and its significance. The topic will be agreed with the instructor. The paper will have a length of 5/7 pages, in Italian. The Final Written Paper will be uploaded to a dedicated D2L folder by April 15th.
- There will not be a final examination.
- The Procedure for Course evaluation will be online via a dedicated D2L Link.

ASSESSMENT

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



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VIDEO Presentation 10%
Writing Assignments (2 at 10% each) 20%
Written exams (2 D2L Quizzes – to be completed in a 48 hours period) 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

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

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



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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.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. 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://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

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.



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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

Links to 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>.