

ITAL 4050: Italian Literature & Culture from Its Origins to 1400 (Fall 2007)

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Office hours: Office hours: MWF 10:10-11:00, or by appointment after 12:15

ITAL 4050 is a sixth semester Italian course designed as a survey of medieval Italian literature and culture. There is an honors option available for honors students; please let me know during add/drop if you are interested in pursuing it.

TEXTS:

1. I will e-mail as an attachment the Italian texts we will discuss in class during the first half of the semester. We will also read English translations of some shorter Latin works; these are on reserve in the Main Library, as well as on electronic reserve. The password to access these texts on e-reserve is: **angela**.
2. Dino Cervigni's bilingual edition of Dante Alighieri's *Vita nuova* is available at the University Bookstore and on reserve in the Main Library (optional). You will probably find this bilingual edition better and more convenient than the editions and translations of the *Vita nuova* available on line or on reserve.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Italian has not changed as much as other Romance languages over the past 750 years. Although the spelling has changed somewhat, you will be able to recognize most words, after a little practice: *ài* = hai; *pò* = posso; *vò* = vuoi; *como* = come; *dolze* = dolce. There are, however, several Tuscan and Umbrian words which resemble modern Italian words, but have different meanings (*vendetta* = giustizia). I have translated into modern Italian all the difficult words and expressions in the Italian texts that I will email to you. If you feel that my annotations are not sufficient to help you understand the text, I have put on reserve English translations of all the poems (*Penguin Anthology of Italian Verse*; *Tuscan Poetry of the Duecento*; *The Poetry of Guido Guinizelli*; etc.): selected passages from these translations are also on electronic reserve.

We will engage in a close reading of these texts in order to understand and interpret them as accurately as possible. We will also study the literary genres, forms, and conventions that make up these texts, and discuss the intellectual, historical, religious and cultural background needed to understand the literature of this period. Particular attention will be given to the Franciscan movement since it was instrumental in the birth of Italian lyric poetry and narrative prose fiction.

During the first half of the semester, we will read Umbrian and Tuscan religious literature and Sicilian and Tuscan love poetry. We will read the Umbrian poetry in the original, and the Sicilian poetry in 13th century Tuscan translations (only one poem from the *Scuola Siciliana* survives in Sicilian). The Latin prose works of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi will be read in translation, as will Angela da Foligno's *Memorial*. All these works are on reserve in the library, as well as on electronic reserve. The letters of St. Catherine of Siena will be read in the original.

During the second half of the semester we will read the first half of Dante's *Vita nuova* and a canto from his *Inferno*. Translations of these works have been put on reserve, and are also available on my web site: <http://www.rom.uga.edu/grossvog/>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

You are expected to prepare the readings on the syllabus and the study questions for each reading assignment, before you come to class. (I will e-mail you the study questions). The class will break-up into small group to answer the study questions; then we will discuss the reading assigned for that day. Since much of the work you do for this course is reflected in your classroom performance, you will get a grade that takes into account your oral/aural skills, your ability to answer the study questions, to paraphrase and analyze the assigned readings, and your participation in classroom discussions. You are, therefore, expected to actively participate in class everyday. Your class performance grade is worth 30% of your final grade.

You will write three essays of approximately 1000 words each. The topics, instructions, and grading criteria for these three essays will be e-mailed to you as a separate attachment. For each essay you will get two grades: one for the first draft, one for the rewrite. Both grades carry equal weight.

In accordance with University regulations, students who miss over half of the classes will not be allowed to take the final examination. Students with prolonged absences due to illness, injury, family emergency, etc. are required to contact me immediately. If you do not, you may be withdrawn from the course for lack of attendance. In the event that you miss a class, you are responsible for keeping up with the assignments and for returning to class prepared (you may want to get the phone number of several classmates so that you can find out from them what you missed in class). As for any course you take at UGA, you are expected to devote two hours outside of class for each hour you spend in class.

Students with a disability or an emotional hardship: Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in the course activities or meet course requirements should contact me as soon as possible. Students with documented learning disabilities are served through the Disability Resource Center: <http://www.drc.uga.edu>. Students with an emotional hardship may want to contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (542-3564), or CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services) at the University Health Center (542-2273).

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Any student who uses the published or unpublished writings, ideas, and/or words of another person without crediting the original author constitutes academic dishonesty. Students are not allowed to receive or attempt to receive any assistance (including human or computer translators) in the preparation of any assignments, examinations, essays, oral reports or similar assignments to be submitted for a grade. All cases of suspected academic dishonesty are referred to the Office of the Vice President for Instruction (542-0432). More information is available in the brochure *A Culture of Honesty* that can be found at the following web site: <http://www.uga.edu/~vpaa>

FINAL GRADE:

Your grade for each of the following categories takes into account your analyses of the assigned readings, and your ability to express yourself in Italian.

30% Class participation.

60% Average of all your papers (including rewrites). All essays should be typed, **triple-spaced**, with one and a quarter inch margins on both sides so that I can make corrections.

10% Final examination (you may use a dictionary and the texts for the second part of the exam): **Monday, December 10th, 12:00--3:00 pm, in our classroom.** A student who cannot take

the final exam on the day it is scheduled, should not enroll in this course. A student with three final examinations scheduled within the same calendar day or two examinations at the same time may petition to reschedule one exam to a different time or day. The following web site will explain how to do this:

<http://www.curriculumsystems.uga.edu/FinalExamConflicts/FinalExamConflicts.html>

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES GRADING SYSTEM FOR ALL
DEPARTMENTAL COURSES (APPROVED BY THE FACULTY: 01/24/07):

Numeric grade	Letter grade	GPA
100-93	A	4.0
92-90	A-	3.7
89-87	B+	3.3
86-83	B	3.0
82-80	B-	2.7
79-77	C+	2.3
76-71	C	2.0
70-68	C-	1.7
67-60	D	1.0
60-0	F	0

The following course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. Translations are in parenthesis.

PIV = *The Penguin Book of Italian Verse* (two copies on reserve, and one on electronic reserve)

HIL = *A History of Italian Literature* (on reserve and on 3rd floor of Main Library)

F&C = *Francis and Clare: The Complete Works* (on reserve and on electronic reserve)

CA = *Clare of Assisi: Early Documents* (on reserve and on electronic reserve)

AF = *Angela of Foligno: Complete Works* (on reserve and on electronic reserve)

TPD = *Tuscan Poetry of the Duecento* (on reserve)

PGG = *The Poetry of Guido Guinizelli* (on reserve & electronic reserve)

MWS = *Medieval Women and the Sources of Medieval History* (two copies on reserve)

MWW = *Medieval Women Writers* (on reserve)

17 agosto Sir Kenneth Clark's *Civilization: Romance and Reality* (video).

20 agosto One of the earliest Italian poems: St. Francis's "Cantico di frate sole" (**PIV** 1-3 and **F&C** 40-41) and **HIL** 13-16. Also available on my web site:
<http://www.rom.uga.edu/grossvog/>

22 agosto The founders of the Franciscan Order: St. Francis, "Testamenti" (**F&C** pp. 153-156); the *Early Rule* in **F&C** pp. 107-135; and the *Later Rule* in **F&C** pp. 136-145.

24 agosto The founders of the Franciscan Order: St. Francis, "Testamenti" (**F&C** pp. 153-156); the *Early Rule* in **F&C** pp. 107-135; and the *Later Rule* in **F&C** pp. 136-145.

27 agosto The founders of the Franciscan Order: St. Clare's *Testament, Rule, and Blessing* in **CA** pp. 54-79 or **F&C** pp. 209-234.

- 29 agosto The founders of the Franciscan Order: St. Clare's *Testament, Rule, and Blessing* in **CA** pp. 54-79 or **F&C** pp. 209-234.
- 31 agosto Giotto's fresco cycle of the life of St. Francis (early 14th century).
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- 3 settembre **Labor Day** (no classes)
- 5 settembre The followers of Francis and Clare: Angela of Foligno, *Memorial* (**AF** pp. 123-158, and 196-218).
- 7 settembre The followers of Francis and Clare: Angela of Foligno, *Memorial* (**AF** pp. 123-158, and 196-218).
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- 10 settembre The followers of Francis and Clare: God's jester: Jacopone da Todi, "De la diversità" and "O iubilo del core" (**PIV** 3-6) and **HIL** 33-34.
- 12 settembre Jacopone da Todi and the Miracle Play: "Pianto della Madonna" (**PIV** 6-10).
- 14 settembre Jacopone da Todi finish "Pianto della Madonna" (**PIV** 11-13).
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- 17 settembre The Dominican Order's greatest mystic: St. Catherine of Siena, "Lettera a tre cardinali," pp. 47-53. (**MWW** 252-268.)
- 19 settembre St. Catherine of Siena. Lettera 31: A Frate Raimondo da Capua (Translation in Noffke's *The Letters of Saint Catherine of Siena* vol. I, pp. 107-111).
- 21 settembre The only genius to ascend a German throne: The Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, "Oi lasso" (**PIV** 19-20) and **HIL** 17-22.
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- 24 settembre **First paper due.** The birth of the sonnet: Giacomo da Lentini "Meravigliosamente" and "Io m'agio posto in core" (**PIV** 21-23).
- 26 settembre Giacomo da Lentini "Guiderdone aspetto avire" (**PIV** 28-31).
Writing from a woman's point of view: Rinaldo D'Aquino "Già mai non mi conforto" (**PIV** 24-26).
- 28 settembre Rinaldo D'Aquino "Ormai quando flore" (**PIV** 27-28). Erotic poetry: Giacomino Pugliese "La dolce ciera piacente" (**PIV** 31-32).
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- 1 ottobre Eros and Thanatos: Giacomino Pugliese "Isplendente" (**PIV** 32-35) and "Morte perché m'ài fatta sì gran guerra" (**PIV** 36-38)
- 3 ottobre The battle of the sexes: Cielo D'Alcamo, "Contrasto" (**PIV** 41-50)
- 5 ottobre Cielo D'Alcamo, "Contrasto." Students will be assigned one stanza each to present to the class.
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- 8 ottobre " " "
- 10 ottobre " " " and read **MWS** pp. 66-79.
- 12 ottobre The Accomplished Damsel: Compiuta Donzella "A la stagion," (**PIV** 53) "Lasciar vorria lo mondo" (**TPD** 164-5), & "Tenzone" (no translation available).
Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline.
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- 15 ottobre The Sweet New Style: Guido Guinizelli "Al cor gentil" (**PGG**) and **HIL** 23-29.
- 17 ottobre Guido Guinizelli "Vedut'ho la lucente stella" and "I' vo' del ver la mia donna" (**PIV** 53-54).
- 19 ottobre Dante's "first friend": Guido Cavalcanti "Avete 'n voi li fiori;" "O donna mia;" and "Fresca rosa novella" (**PIV** 55-58) and **HIL** 29-32.
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- 22 ottobre Guido Cavalcanti "Era in pensar d'amor" (**PIV** 58-61) and "Perché i' non spero" (**PIV**, 62-63).
- 24 ottobre **Second paper due.** Dante Alighieri, *Vita nuova* and **HIL** 41-49.
- 25-26 ottobre **Fall Break** ”
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- 29 ottobre Dante Alighieri, *Vita nuova*

31 ottobre	“	“
2 novembre	“	”

5 novembre	Dante Alighieri, <i>Vita nuova</i>	
7 novembre	“	“
9 novembre	“	”

12 novembre	Dante Alighieri, <i>Vita nuova</i>	
14 novembre	“	“
16 novembre	“	”

19 novembre	Dante Alighieri, <i>Vita nuova</i> .	Third paper due.
21-23 novembre	Thanksgiving Vacation	

26 novembre	Dante Alighieri, <i>Vita nuova</i>	
28 novembre	Dante Alighieri, <i>Inferno V</i>	
30 novembre	Dante Alighieri, <i>Inferno V</i>	

3 dicembre	Marco Polo, <i>Il milione</i> XXXI (“Il veglio della montagna”), and <i>Novellino C</i> (“Come lo ‘mperatore Federigo andò alla montagna del Veglio”)	
4 dicembre	Medieval fables: <i>Novellino</i> XXXVI (“Come un re crudele perseguitava i cristiani”), and <i>I fioretti di San Francesco</i> XXI “ <i>Come santo Francesco liberò la città d’Agobbio da un fiero lupo.</i> ”	
5 dicembre	Class will meet in Gilbert 112 to do the course evaluations.	

10 dicembre	Final Exam: 12:00--3:00 a.m. (in our classroom).	

PLEASE NOTE: NO SMOKING, FOOD, DRINKS OR CHEWING GUM IN CLASS.