

## **ITAL 2500: Italian Culture**

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Office hours: MWF 11:15-12:10 or by appointment in the afternoon

### **I. Objectives:**

This course will examine in chronological order several aspects of Italy's cultural heritage, in particular its literature and its socioeconomic and political history, by focusing on selected regions and cities. Using literary and non-literary texts, as well as documentaries, we shall look at how certain social, political, artistic, and economic institutions and groups have evolved in Italy. Since institutions are a reflection of how a society perceives itself, we shall try to see what these institutions and groups tell us about Italy, Italians, and Italian culture. We will study the regions of Italy from an Italian perspective while analyzing, at the same time, the way we, as outsiders, react to that culture. How do Italians interpret their world? How is it different from the way foreigners, ourselves included, interpret it? Why? By looking at Italian culture from both an emic (native) and an etic (non-native) perspective we should be able to acquire a bicultural understanding of Italy. In short, we will not judge cultural differences or certain cultural phenomena, but try to understand the rationale for their existence.

### **II. Required readings:**

1. *The Servant of Two Masters and Other Italian Classics* (available at University Bookstore, Off-Campus Bookstore, and on reserve in the Main Library)
2. Giuseppe di Lampedusa, *The Leopard* (available at University Bookstore, Off-Campus Bookstore, and on reserve in the Main Library).
3. Italo Calvino, *Marcovaldo: The Seasons in the City* (available at University Bookstore, Off-Campus Bookstore, and on reserve in the Main Library).
4. Chris Duggan, *A Concise History of Italy* (available at University Bookstore, Off-Campus Bookstore, and on reserve in the Main Library).
5. Assigned readings on reserve in the Main Library and on my web site:  
<http://www.rom.uga.edu/grossvog/>

### **III. Other Requirements:**

1. An understanding of all the assigned readings and documentaries.
2. Two 1500-word papers on an assigned topic. Each paper must be typewritten and double-spaced, with one and a quarter inch margins.
3. Attendance is mandatory in ITAL 2500. Students with prolonged absences due to illness, injury, family emergency, or other hardships are required to contact me immediately. If you fail to do so, you may be withdrawn from the course. In the event that you miss a class, you are responsible for keeping up with assignments, and for returning to class prepared. Since assignments may be modified, you should phone or e-mail a classmate to find out from her/him what you missed in class and what you are supposed to prepare for the following day.

### **IV Final Grade:**

- 60% Average of two papers.
- 15% Participation in classroom discussions.
- 10% Midterm.

15% Final examination: **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-11:00 a.m. (in our classroom)**. You are required to take the final exam on this day. If you are unable to do so, you should not register for this course.

**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 Learning Disabilities Center (542-4589) located in Milledge Hall. Students with other disabilities are served by Disabilities Services (542-8719) located in the Clark Howell Hall. 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 Policy:** All academic work must meet the standards contained in *A Culture of Honesty*. Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Students are not allowed to receive or attempt to receive any assistance in the preparation of any assignments, examinations, papers, oral reports or similar assignments to be submitted for a grade. Any student who uses the published or unpublished writings, ideas, and/or words of another person without crediting the original author is guilty of plagiarism, a form of cheating, and will be reported for suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of the Vice President for Instruction (542-0432). Make sure you cite all sources of information that you include in your papers. (Instructions on how to cite your sources appear on the list of paper topics for this course.) More information is available in *A Culture of Honesty*, available at: <http://www.uga.edu/~vpaa>

### ITAL 2500 Syllabus

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

August 15 Comparative socio-economic data on Italy and the United States.

August 17 Comparative socio-economic data on Italy and the United States.  
Duggan's *Concise History of Italy*, Preface and Introduction (pp. 1-30).

August 19 Medieval Sicily: The Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II and the Sicilian School of Poetry (poems will be e-mailed).

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August 22 Medieval Umbria: its monastic orders and the clash between materialistic and idealistic values: Saint Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Creatures* (on my web site)

August 24 The *exemplum* and the birth of narrative prose fiction: "The Wolf of Gubbio" in *The Little Flowers of Saint Francis* (on my web site).

August 26 Duggan's *Concise History of Italy* pp. 31-46

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August 29 Medieval Florence: Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy: Inferno VI* (on web site)

August 31 Medieval Rome: Francesco Petrarca's "Noble spirit." (on web site)

September 2 Medieval Naples: Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron* Day II, Novella 5 (on my web-site)

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- September 5 **Labor Day** (no class)  
 September 7 Renaissance Florence: Bill Moyer's *The Power of the Past* (pt. 1 of documentary).  
 Duggan's *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 46-59.  
 September 9 Renaissance Florence: Bill Moyer's *The Power of the Past* (pt. 2 of documentary).  
 Duggan's *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 60-65.

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- September 12 Begin discussing Machiavelli's *The Mandrake* in *The Servant of Two Masters and Other Italian Classics*.  
 September 14 Finish discussing Machiavelli's *The Mandrake* in *The Servant of Two Masters and Other Italian Classics*.  
 September 16 Naples: "Outline of the History of Naples" (on my web-site.)

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- September 19 Baroque Naples: selected poems by Giambattista Marino (on my web-site)  
 September 21 Baroque Naples: selected poems by Giambattista Marino (on my web-site).  
 Duggan's *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 65-75.  
 September 23 Contemporary Naples.

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- September 26 "Outline of the History of Venice" (on my web site); and Duggan's *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 75-86. Gore Vidal's *Vidal in Venice* (pt. 1 of documentary).  
 September 28 Gore Vidal's *Vidal in Venice* (pt. 2 of documentary)  
 September 30 Begin discussing Carlo Goldoni's *The Servant of Two Masters*

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- October 3 Finish discussing Carlo Goldoni's *The Servant of Two Masters*  
 October 5 Contemporary Venice.  
 October 7 **Midterm exam**

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- October 10 Milan and Lombardy "Outline of the History of Milan" (on my web site) and  
 Duggan's *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 87-97.  
 October 12 From the Franciscan *exemplum* to Goldoni: Alessandro Manzoni's *The Betrothed*  
 chapters 1-8 (on my web site)  
 October 14 Alessandro Manzoni's *The Betrothed* chapters 1-8.

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- October 17 Contemporary Milan. Begin reading Lampedusa's *The Leopard* for the essay that is  
 due two weeks from today.  
 October 19 Rome and the Vatican.  
 (October 20 **Withdrawal Deadline**)  
 October 21 Eighteenth Century Rome: selected poems by Gioachimo Giuseppe Belli.

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- October 24 Eighteenth Century Rome: selected poems by Gioachimo Giuseppe Belli.  
 October 26 The Eternal City: yesterday, today, and tomorrow  
 October 28 **Fall Break** (no classes)

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- October 31 **First Essay Due.** Discussion on the “Outline of the History of Sicily” and on Giuseppe di Lampedusa’s *Leopard*.
- November 2 Discussion on Giuseppe di Lampedusa’s *The Leopard*. Read Duggan’s *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 97-116.
- November 4 Discussion on Giuseppe di Lampedusa’s *The Leopard*. Read Duggan’s *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 117-133.
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- November 7 Discussion on Giuseppe di Lampedusa’s *The Leopard*. Read Duggan’s *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 133-142
- November 9 Discussion on Giuseppe di Lampedusa’s *The Leopard*. Read Duggan’s *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 143-157.
- November 11 Lampedusa’s Sicily and Sicily today. Read Duggan’s *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 157-170.
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- November 14 Turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Italy. Read Duggan’s *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 171-188
- November 16 Italy in World War I and World War II. Read Duggan’s *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 189-204
- November 18 Italy in World War I and World War II. Read Duggan’s *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 205-239
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- November 21-25 **Thanksgiving Break**
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- November 28 Postwar Italy. Read Duggan’s *Concise History of Italy*, pp. 240-294
- November 30 Read and compare the Constitutions of Italy and of the United States (links to the Italian Constitution appear on my web-site).
- December 2 Comparisons between the Italian and the United States Constitutions.
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- December 5 **Second paper due.** Discussion of Italo Calvino’s *Marcovaldo: Seasons in the City*
- December 6 Discussion of Italo Calvino’s *Marcovaldo: Seasons in the City*
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- December 9: Final Exam: 8:00-11:00 a.m. (in our classroom).**