

**ITAL 2500: Italian Culture**

Instructor: Dr. Barbara Cooper  
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 Office hours: Mon 12:20 – 1:10; Tue 10:30 – 12:10; Thu 10:30 – 11:20; and by appointment

**I. Objectives:**

The aim of this course is to view Italian culture through the prism of literature and history from unification to the present highlighting the crucial events and developments that took place in Italy during the last century and a half. The reading of select relevant literary texts will be complemented by the explorative study of representative works from the areas of painting, music, and cinema. The course is designed to encourage students to make comparisons and to observe connections between the US and Italian cultures, to heighten their awareness of the influence and impact US and Italian cultures had on each other (perspectives, practices, products), and to help them arrive at some understanding of how Italians see themselves and the world. Course participants should also have refined their critical and analytical skills and gained an awareness of critical tools available for further study of Italian culture.

**II. Required readings:**

- Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, *The Leopard* (1958)
- Grazia Deledda, *Reeds in the Wind* (1913)
- Italo Calvino, *The Path to the Spiders' Nests* (1947)
- Assigned readings of selected texts on eLC and electronic reserves of the library (GIL website).

**III. Other Requirements:**

1. Preparation of all the assigned material.
2. Two 1200-word papers: the first on *The Leopard*, and the second on *Reeds in the Wind* or *The Path to the Spiders' Nests*.
3. Class participation: your contribution to discussion and general preparedness will be evaluated daily. All students will be called upon at some point to give a summary of the assigned readings.
4. One class presentation. (See list of topics on eLC.)
5. Attendance is mandatory. After the **second** absence **FIVE** points will be taken off the class participation grade for each additional absence. In case of prolonged absence due to illness or emergencies you should contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students missing more than 8 classes will be dropped with the grade of WF.

<b>IV. Final Grade:</b>	30%	- average of two papers
	20%	- class participation
	15%	- average of two quizzes
	15%	- class presentation
	20%	- final exam

**V. Students with disabilities:**

If you have a disability that requires special accommodations, you must already have been tested by the university in order to be eligible for accommodations. Please provide your instructor with the appropriate forms from Disability Services at the beginning of the semester.

**VI. Academic Honesty:**

All academic work must meet the standards described in A Culture of Honesty (see [http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/culture_honesty.htm)). Each student is responsible to familiarize him/herself with these standards and to abide by them in all his/her academic work.

## ITAL 2500: Syllabus

(The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations/revisions may be necessary.)

<b>JAN</b>	11	<b>Introduction</b> Basic political geography of Italy
	13	Discuss Killinger 1: An Introduction to Modern Italy (eLC - HISTORY); Sicily
wk 2	18	Discuss <i>The Leopard</i> , chapter 1: "Introduction to the Prince"
	20	<b>The unification of Italy</b> <i>The Leopard</i> , chapter 2: "Donnafugata"
wk 3	25	<i>The Leopard</i> , chapter 3: "The Troubles of Don Fabrizio", and chapter 4: "Love at Donnafugata"
	27	<i>The Leopard</i> , chapter 5: "Father Pirrone Pays a Visit"; "The Insurgent (Garibaldi)" (GIL Reserve 6)
<b>FEB</b>	1	<i>The Leopard</i> , chapter 6: "A Ball", chapter 7: "Death of a Prince", and chapter 8: "Relics"; Luchino Visconti's film <i>The Leopard</i> (1963)
	3	<b>Deceptive children's stories</b> Carlo Collodi's <i>Pinocchio</i> (1883) (selections) (GIL Reserve 1); De Amici's <i>Cuore</i> (1886) (= <i>Heart: A Schoolboy's Journal</i> ) (selections) (GIL Reserve 8); "Catholic Culture" (eLC)
wk 5	8	<b>Verga and Verismo:</b> Verga's <i>Rosso Malpelo</i> (1878) (GIL Reserve 23); Carducci (eLC)
	10	<b>Futurism (prose, visual arts, music)</b> Marinetti, "Futurist Manifesto" 1 & 2 (1909) (GIL Reserve 5 & 14); Palazzeschi's <i>Man of Smoke</i> (1911) (selections) (GIL Reserve 17); we look at Futurist painting and sculpture (Balla, Boccioni, Carrà, Severini); we listen to Russolo's compositions for "noise machines"
wk 6	15	FIRST PAPER DUE Lecture "Inventing Fascism"
	17	QUIZ 1

wk 7	22	Discuss <i>Reeds in the Wind</i> , chapters 1 - 8
	24	<i>Reeds in the Wind</i> , chapters 9 – 17
<b>MAR</b>	1	Discuss Matilde Serao “Nevermore” (eLC); Luigi Pirandello; the fratelli Taviani’s film <i>Kaos</i> (“The Other Son”) (in class)
	3	<b><i>The war and the end of fascism</i></b> <b><i>Culture during the Ventennio</i></b> The visual arts: the DeChirico brothers; Ungaretti (GIL Reserve 16); Montale (GIL Reserve 20); Quasimodo (eLC)
wk 9	8	<b><i>Italian Neorealism</i></b> Roberto Rossellini’s film <i>Open City</i> (1945); Discuss <i>The Path to the Spiders’ Nests</i> , chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4
	10	<i>The Path to the Spiders’ Nests</i> , chapters 5, 6, 7 & 8
		<i>SPRING BREAK: March 14 – 18</i>
wk 10	22	<i>The Path to the Spiders’ Nests</i> , chapters 9, 10, 11 & 12; Vittorio de Sica’s film <i>Bicycle Thief</i> (1948)
	24	<b><i>LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW</i></b> <b><i>From reconstruction to Economic Miracle</i></b> Ugo Gregoretti’s film <i>Il pollo ruspante</i> (1963) (in class)
wk 11	29	<b><i>The 1960s and the revolts of 1968 – 1973</i></b> “Socialism, Communism, and Other isms” (eLC) The neo-avantgardist novel and the open work: Luigi Malerba <i>What is this buzzing? Do you hear it, too?</i> (= <i>Salto mortale</i> , 1968) (GIL Reserve 24)
	31	QUIZ 2
<b>APR</b>	5	<b><i>Terrorism (Anni di piombo)</i></b> Dario Fo, <i>Accidental Death of an Anarchist</i> (1970) (eLC)
	7	<b><i>Return to prosperity: the 1980s</i></b> Fabrizia Ramondini, “Perfetta’s Day” (1983) (eLC); Chapter “Family Matters” from <i>The New Italians</i> by C. Richards (GIL Reserve 21)

wk 13	12	<b><i>Italian politics in the 1990s: From Mani pulite to Forza Italia</i></b> Excerpt from <i>La bella figura</i> by Beppe Severgnini (eLC)
	14	<b><i>Opera I</i></b> SECOND PAPER DUE
wk 14	19	<b><i>Opera II</i></b>
	21	<b><i>Emigration</i></b> PRESENTATIONS
wk 15	26	PRESENTATIONS
	28	PRESENTATIONS

**FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 10, 3:30 – 6:30**