



ITAL 290: Special Topic: From Opera to Rap.

Italian Language Lab for Intermediate and Intermediate / Advanced Students (i-course)

Course Syllabus

Spring Semester 2020

Instructor: Antonella Valoroso, Ph.D.

Credit: 1

Contact Hours: 13

Prerequisites: None

Class Hours: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Course Type: i-Course

Lab Fee: None

Course Description

In this 50 minutes, once a week, 1 credit course, students will expand their comprehension of Italian culture by listening to, discussing, and analyzing original songs belonging to past and present Italian musical culture, as well as related scholarly resources in Italian.

Throughout the semester, students will complete 5 written assignments in Italian in order to improve their knowledge of the Italian language, history, culture, and society. All the linguistic abilities (oral and written comprehension, writing and speaking) will be drilled and strengthened in this course geared toward students enrolled both in Italian 201 and 301. By the end of the semester, students will also prepare an individual project (written in Italian) focusing on a topic chosen in agreement with the course instructor. The individual projects will be shared with the rest of the class in an oral presentation in Italian (5-7 minutes).

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Measures

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

Assessment Measures

Learning Outcomes

discuss topics related to the history and culture of the Italian musical tradition;
speak and write about Italian music and culture;
listen and understand Italian songs;
integrate course material with case studies related to the Italian musical tradition;
read and discuss essays and research about Italian music and culture in their original language.

Course requirements that will be used to assess students' achievement for each learning outcome

participation and preparation for the i-course;
written assignments, final project, oral presentation;
participation and preparation for the i-course
reading assignments, participation and preparation for the i-course;
reading assignments, participation and preparation for the i-course.

Course Materials

Readings

Course reader available at local copy shop.

Further Readings/Listenings

Handouts distributed in class.

Please see “Umbra Institute Course Materials - Textbooks and Readers” handout provided in the orientation folder for more information.

Assessment [

-Participation and preparation for the i-course	20%
-Written assignments (5)	50% (10% each)
-Final project (2-3 pages)	15%
-Oral report (5-7 minutes presentation)	15%

Grading

Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-	90% - 92%	Excellent
B+	87% - 89%	Superior
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	

C+	77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C	73% - 76%	
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	Low Pass
D	63% - 66%	
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

Course Requirements

Grades are based on participation and preparation for the i-course, 5 written assignments, a final project, and a final oral presentation.

Participation and Preparation for the I-Course (20%)

Students are expected and strongly encouraged to engage in active participation as a way to enhance and reinforce their learning. It is therefore crucial for students to study the reading materials and come well prepared to class. Participation in class means paying attention to the lectures, asking questions, responding to questions when asked by the instructor, and sharing ideas and thoughts on the issues addressed in class with other students.

Written Assignments (5) (50%)

Students will complete 5 written compositions in Italian in which they will reflect critically on Italian musical tradition as well as on Italian history, culture, and society.

All written work must be double-spaced with 2.54cm (1 inch) margins on all sides and be set in 12 pt. Times New Roman font.

Final Project (15%)

After midterm students will start working on an individual project (2-3 pages written in Italian) focusing on a topic chosen in agreement with the course instructor.

Oral Presentation (15%)

The individual projects will be shared with the rest of the class in an oral presentation in Italian (5-7 minutes).

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is **mandatory**. Students are allowed **one “free” absence**, which does not need to be justified. **It is the students’ responsibility to keep it in case of real necessity (sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class)**. Each additional absence, unless for a very serious reason, will lower the students’ grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. It is also the policy of the Institute that any student who has eight or more absences automatically fails the class.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. **Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason.** Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important for student performance in class. Missing a

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mandatory field trip, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to the professor and Umbra Academic Director in a timely manner, will lower students' final grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

Academic Integrity

All forms of **cheating** (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and **plagiarism** (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Classroom Policy

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate **respect** for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that **cell phones** must be turned off before the beginning of each class. **Computers and other electronic devices** cannot be used during class lectures and discussions.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

WEEK 1

Introduzione al corso. Storia d'Italia e musica italiana. Un po' do vocabolario.

Readings

Lettura: *Verso l'Unità* (p. 7). (Course Reader)

WEEK 2

Ascolto, lettura e analisi del *Canto degli italiani* di Goffredo Mameli.

Attività sul testo del *Canto degli italiani*.

Readings

Lettura: *Il canto degli italiani* (p. 6) (Course Reader)

WEEK 3

Dal brigantaggio alla questione meridionale.

Ascolto, lettura e analisi di *Brigante se more* di Eugenio Bennato e Carlo D'Angiò.

Attività sul testo di *Brigante se more*.

Readings

Lettura: *Il Sud si ribella* (p. 15) (Course Reader)

WEEK 4

L'opera buffa.

Ascolto, lettura e analisi di *Una voce poco fa* dal *Barbiere di Siviglia* di Gioachino Rossini.

Attività sul testo di *Una voce poco fa*.

Readings

Lettura: *Gioachino Rossini, Il Napoleone della musica*

<https://www.focus.it/cultura/arte/gioachino-rossini-il-barbiere-di-siviglia>

Work Due

Composizione #1 (Il Risorgimento)

WEEK 5

L'opera seria.

Ascolto, lettura e analisi di *Va pensiero* dal *Nabucco* di Giuseppe Verdi.

Readings

Lettura: *Giuseppe Verdi, Il genio musicale assoluto in Italia e nel mondo*

<https://www.italiani.it/giuseppe-verdi-il-genio-musicale-assoluto-in-italia-e-nel-mondo/>

WEEK 6

Le donne italiane e le riforme degli anni '60 e '70.

Ascolto, lettura e analisi di *Nessuno mi può giudicare* di Caterina Caselli.

Attività sul testo di *Nessuno mi può giudicare*.

Readings

Lettura: *Dal boom alla contestazione* (p. 71) (Course Reader)

Work Due

Composizione #2 (L'Opera di Rossini e/o Verdi)

WEEK 7

Emigranti italiani e emigrati in Italia.

Ascolto, lettura e analisi della ballata popolare *Mamma mia dammi cento lire*. Attività sul testo di *Mamma mia dammi cento lire*.

Readings

Lettura: *Gli emigrati italiani* (p. 23) (Course Reader)

Work Due

Composizione #3 (I diritti delle donne)

SEMESTER BREAK

WEEK 8

La cultura e la musica dei nuovi italiani.

Ascolto, lettura e analisi di *Cara Italia* di Ghali.

Readings

Igiaba Scego, *Salsicce* (Course Reader)

WEEK 9

Peppino Impastato e l'esperienza delle radio libere degli anni '70.

Ascolto, lettura e analisi di *I cento passi* dei Modena City Ramblers

Readings

Lettura: *Peppino Impastato spiegato ai ragazzi. Ucciso dalla mafia per cento (e più) passi di libertà*
http://www.corriere.it/cultura/17_maggio_08/giuseppe-peppino-impastato-ucciso-mafia-cento-passi-liberta-b732eb84-33ca-11e7-8367-3ab733a34736.shtml

Work Due

Composizione #4 (Vecchie e nuove migrazioni)

WEEK 10

Ascolto, lettura e analisi della canzone rap *Pensa* di Fabrizio Moro.

Attività sul testo di *Pensa*.

Readings

Lettura dell'introduzione e visione del video: *Giovanni Falcone, una vita contro la mafia*

<http://www.scuola.rai.it/articoli-programma-puntate/giovanni-falcone-una-vita-contro-la-mafia/9508/default.aspx>

WEEK 11

Rap e trap in Italia. Attività di ascolto e analisi di alcuni brani di artisti italiani.

Readings

Lettura: <https://ripetizioni.skuela.net/blog/10-cantanti-della-musica-trap-italiana/>

Work Due

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Composizione #5 (Le mafie)

WEEK 12

Gli italiani e l'America. Attività di lettura, scrittura e ascolto sui rapporti tra Italia e USA di ieri e oggi. Ascolto, lettura e analisi della canzone *Tu vuo' fa' l'americano* di Renato Carosone.

Readings

Lettura: *Il mito americano* (p. 63) (Course Reader)

Work Due

Final Project

Oral presentations.

WEEK OF FINAL EXAMS AND SPECIAL ACADEMIC EVENTS

The Final Exam and Special Academic Events Calendar will be provided later in the semester