

ITAL 1890 (Fall 2024) | MW 1:45 – 3:15 PM
Dr Francesco Marco Aresu (faresu@sas.upenn.edu)
Office Hours: MW 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Williams Hall 550



Bestsellers of Italian Literature

In this course we will read some of the most significant works of Italian literature. Starting with Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Petrarca's love poems, and Boccaccio's novellas, we will explore the history of Italian literature and culture through the Renaissance (from Machiavelli's political theory to Galileo's scientific revolution), Romanticism (from Leopardi's lyrical poems to Manzoni's novel), and the twentieth century (from the Futurist manifestos to Calvino's postmodern short stories). We will learn how to analyze literary texts and frame them in their historical, cultural, and socio-political context, while also honing presentational and writing skills. **All readings and class discussions will be in Italian.**

ITAL 1890 is a requirement for majors and minors in Italian Literature. It counts toward the minor in Global Medieval Studies.

Prerequisites

ITAL 1000 (or an equivalent course taken abroad). With the undergraduate chair's permission, ITAL 1000 and ITAL 1890 may be taken in the same semester.

Course Objectives

1. Improve Italian speaking, writing, and reading skills
2. Explore key works, trends, and periods of Italian literature and culture
3. Develop skills in analyzing the structure, themes, and ideas of literary texts
4. Develop the ability to construct coherent critical arguments supported by textual or contextual evidence, and the ability to understand and respond critically to arguments put forward by others
5. Establish formal and thematic connections across texts, genres, epochs, and media

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Course Materials

BALBONI, Paolo & BIGUZZI, Anna. *Letteratura italiana per stranieri*. Perugia: Guerra Edizioni, 2008 (and subsequent editions). ISBN: 978-88-557-0096-2

*** Additional materials will be uploaded in pdf on the course Canvas.

Course Requirements

You are expected to arrive in class on time having closely read the texts assigned for that week. We start immediately, and any quizzes given at the beginning of the period and missed due to tardiness may not be made up. Attendance is mandatory. You may have two unexcused absences. After that, 3% will be taken off the final grade for each additional absence, unless appropriate documentation is provided. With a total of **three** unexcused absences, I will discuss with you the possibility of dropping the course.

Read and re-read. Make notes, underline and circle words and phrases. Be an active reader. Complete the reading before each session. Read and be prepared to respond to the discussion questions. Arrive with a handful of points for discussion. Bring your reading notes to class. This course is intended as a seminar: you are encouraged to actively participate in class discussion.

Two written assignments will be graded (3 pp. each). Additionally, there will be a midterm in-class exam. You will prepare an oral presentation for the final week of class on a topic of their choice, which will be submitted to the instructor for approval by the tenth week of class. The same topic will be further researched and discussed in depth in the final paper (9 pages), due the last day of finals week. All written assignments must be presented in hard copy (12 Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1" margins, following MLA or Chicago style).

Outline of Assignments and Grades

- Course Citizenship: Preparation, Attendance, Participation (20%)
- Two Short Essays (10% + 10%)
- Oral presentation (10%)
- Midterm (20%)
- Final Paper (30%)

*** Guidelines for each assignment will be provided in class

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Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, ethnicity, culture, religion, creed, politics, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, age, physical or mental health status, socioeconomic status, and nationality. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Academic Support and Accessibility

The Weingarten Center offers resources to support all Penn students in reaching their academic goals. All services are free and confidential. To contact the Center, call 215-573-9235. The office is in Stouffer Commons, 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300.

Learning consultations and learning strategies workshops support students in developing more efficient and effective study skills and learning strategies. Learning specialists work with undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to address time and project management, academic reading and writing, note-taking, problem-solving, exam preparation, test-taking, self-regulation, and flexibility.

Undergraduates can also take advantage of free on-campus tutoring for many Penn courses in both drop-in and weekly contract formats. Tutoring may be individual or in small groups. Tutors will assist with applying course information, understanding key concepts, and developing course-specific strategies. Tutoring support is available throughout the term but is best accessed early in the semester.

The University of Pennsylvania is committed to the accessibility of its programs and services. Students with a disability or medical condition can request reasonable accommodations through the Weingarten Center website. Disability Services determines accommodations on an individualized basis through an interactive process, including a meeting with the student and a review of their disability documentation.

Students who have approved accommodations are encouraged to notify their faculty members and share their accommodation letters at the start of each semester. Students can contact Disability Services by calling 215-573-9235.

Student Conduct Code

Students may be held accountable for committing or attempting to commit a violation of the Penn Student Conduct Code or for assisting, facilitating, or participating in the planning of an act that violates this Code (or an act that would be in violation of this Code if it were carried out by a student): <https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-student-conduct/>.

Academic dishonesty includes: Cheating; Fabrication; Plagiarism; Multiple Submissions; Facilitating Academic Dishonesty; Coercion Regarding Grading or Evaluation of Coursework; Unauthorized Collaboration; Other Forms of Dishonesty (Other forms of dishonesty, including, but not limited to, fabricating information or knowingly furnishing false information or reporting a false emergency to the University); Forgery.

Academic Dishonesty Definitions

Activities, that have the effect or intention of interfering with education, pursuit of knowledge, or fair evaluation of a student's performance are prohibited. Examples of such activities include but are not limited to the following definitions:

Cheating: using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance, material, or study aids in examinations or other academic work or preventing, or attempting to prevent, another from using authorized assistance, material, or study aids. Examples: using a cheat sheet in a quiz or exam, altering a graded exam and resubmitting it for a better grade, etc.

Plagiarism: using the ideas, data, or language of another without specific or proper acknowledgment. Examples: copying another person's paper, article, or computer work and submitting it for an assignment, cloning someone else's ideas without attribution, failing to use quotation marks where appropriate, etc.

Fabrication: submitting contrived or altered information in any academic exercise. Examples: making up data for an experiment, fudging data, citing nonexistent articles, contriving sources, etc.

Multiple submission: submitting, without prior permission, any work submitted to fulfill another academic requirement.

Misrepresentation of academic records: misrepresenting or tampering with or attempting to tamper with any portion of a student's transcripts or academic record, either before or after coming to the University of Pennsylvania. Examples: forging a change of grade slip, tampering with computer records, falsifying academic information on one's resume, etc.

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Facilitating academic dishonesty: knowingly helping or attempting to help another violate any provision of the Code. Examples: working together on a take-home exam, etc.

Unfair advantage: attempting to gain unauthorized advantage over fellow students in an academic exercise. Examples: gaining or providing unauthorized access to examination materials, obstructing or interfering with another student's efforts in an academic exercise, lying about a need for an extension for an exam or paper, continuing to write even when time is up during an exam, destroying or keeping library materials for one's own use, etc.
