



**SCHOOL OF ASIAN AND EUROPEAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES  
ITALIAN PROGRAMME**

**ITAL 308—CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN LITERATURE**

**COURSE OUTLINE 2006**



**Course Co-ordinator and Lecturer: Dr. Marco Sonzogni**

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**Office hours: Monday, 3-4 pm and Wednesday, 12noon-1 pm**

## 1. ITAL 308: CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN LITERATURE

This is the **course description** and **timetable** for **ITAL 308** (CRN 7524), for the year **2006**. The course is worth **24 points** and runs for the **second trimester**. Please read through this material carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

## 2. STAFF

VZ 601 **Nina Cuccurullo** ([nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz), tel.: 463 5293) is the Italian administrator until 4 August. Her hours are 8.15 am to 4.15pm, Monday to Friday. From 7 August, **Alison Dixie** ([alison.dixie@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:alison.dixie@vuw.ac.nz), tel.: 463 5318) will take over as administrator. Her hours are 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

VZ 601 **Claudia Bernardi** On leave from July 2006 until June 2007 tel.: 463 5646  
[claudia.bernardi@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:claudia.bernardi@vuw.ac.nz)

VZ 602 **Dr Sarah (Sally) Hill** Acting Programme Director and Lecturer tel.: 463 5298  
[sarah.hill@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sarah.hill@vuw.ac.nz)

VZ 504 **Dr Marco Sonzogni** Lecturer tel.: 463 6284  
[marco.sonzogni@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:marco.sonzogni@vuw.ac.nz)

VZ 505 **Gianni Atzeni** Italian Government Lector tel.: 463 5647  
[gianni.atzeni@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:gianni.atzeni@vuw.ac.nz)

VZ 505 **Sibilla Papparatti** Lecturer & Tutor tel.: 463 5647  
[sibilla.paparatti@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sibilla.paparatti@vuw.ac.nz)

*S.A.E.L.C. Co-ordinator for Students with Disabilities*

VZ 705 **Dr Andrew Barke** tel.: 463 6467  
[andrew.barke@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:andrew.barke@vuw.ac.nz)

*S.A.E.L.C. Co-ordinator for Maori and Pacific Students*

VZ 514 **Dr Keren Smith** tel.: 463 5798  
[keren.smith@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:keren.smith@vuw.ac.nz)

The **Course Co-ordinator and Lecturer for ITAL 308** is **Dr. Marco Sonzogni**. He is available for student consultation at times indicated on the front of this outline and on his office door; alternative times can be arranged by appointment via e-mail and telephone.

The **Italian notice-board** is on the **fifth floor** of **Von Zedlitz (VZ)**. Important information is posted on it: please check it regularly.

## 3. ITAL 308 CLASSES

Classes—two lectures and one tutorial—are held at the following times: **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 1-2 pm, in VZ 601.**

#### 4. ITAL 308 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

**ITAL 308** is a **second trimester 24-point course** for **300-level students of Italian**. The course covers the most important aspects of contemporary Italian fiction through a close study of three selected works: two collections of short-stories by Dino Buzzati (1906-1971) and Paola Capriolo (1962) respectively, and one novel, by Antonio Tabucchi (1943).

##### Aims

1. to introduce students to a general overview of contemporary Italian fiction;
2. to extend students' ability to understand the many forms of fiction in the *genres* of the *racconto* and of the *romanzo*;
3. to teach students basic critical theory and textual analysis skills and encourage them to express themselves critically (both orally and in writing) about the texts studied in the course.

##### Objectives

Upon completing the course successfully students will be able to:

- i. demonstrate a general knowledge of contemporary Italian literature;
- ii. demonstrate a detailed knowledge of contemporary Italian fiction;
- iii. understand and comment on selected texts by contemporary Italian fiction writers

#### 5. TEXTS

There are three set texts:

- D. Buzzati, *Sessanta racconti*, Milano: Mondadori, 1994 (1958)
- A. Tabucchi, *Sostiene Pereira*, Milano: Feltrinelli, 2005 (1994)
- P. Capriolo, *La grande Eulalia*, Milano: Feltrinelli, 2000 (1998)

These set texts are available from **Vicbooks, Student Union Building**.

#### 6. ASSESSMENT

Assessment for **ITAL 308** is a combination of **in-term assessment (60%)** and a **final three-hour examination (40%)**, as follows:

- i. 2 (1,500 word) essays (20% each);
- ii. 1 seminar presentation (20%);
- iii. 1 final two-hour written examination (40%).

The relevant dates for assessed work are detailed in the course timetable (Section 17).

#### 7. RELATION OF ASSESSMENT TO OBJECTIVES

The written essays relate to objectives (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv), as specified in Section 4. The seminar presentation relates to objectives (ii), (iii), and (iv). The final written examination relates to all four objectives.

## 8. PRESENTATION OF ESSAYS

Tidy presentation of essays is **essential**. Work may be **typed or neatly handwritten**. Crossings-out indicate that a piece of work is still at draft stage. Allow space for correction: leave a 4-centimetre margin and write on alternate lines. **Do not write in pencil**. **All assignments must include a cover sheet** available from **SAELC Reception**, Von Zedlitz (VZ) 610. Assignments are to be handed in to the **Italian assignment slot** located to the left of the **SAELC Reception** area. **Corrected work** will be handed out in class. If you do not collect work in class, you will be able to collect it from SAELC Reception. All **work not collected** will be destroyed 3 months after the date of the final written test.

## 9. PENALTIES

The due dates for the essays given in the Course Timetable **must** be adhered to. Although work may be accepted late in special circumstances, the Course Co-ordinator should always be contacted on or before the due dates if there is a problem. The penalty for work presented late without prior approval is a **5% deduction per day**. In addition, please note that up to a **maximum of 5%** may be deducted for poorly presented essays (see Section 8).

## 10. TESTS AND IMPAIRMENT

Test dates given in the course timetable **must** be adhered to. You should always sit a test if humanly possible, obtaining a medical certificate if you wish to claim impairment. If you sit a test but believe your performance has been radically affected by **some medical or other factor**, inform the Course Co-ordinator **immediately**. If you fail the test you may be able to claim impairment. If you are unable to sit a test for severe medical, personal or family reasons, you should do everything possible to notify the Course Co-ordinator, if necessary through the Administrator, **before** the test, or to get a friend or family member to do so on your behalf. Only in cases of severe illness or other exceptionally difficult circumstances, which must normally be documented, can the Programme consider allowing students to sit a test at a different time from that indicated.

## 11. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University has a policy of reasonable **accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities in examinations and other assessment procedures**. See the Course Co-ordinator if you have **any special requirements or requests**. For the room and telephone number of the **Co-ordinator for Students with Disabilities** in the School of Asian and European Languages and Cultures, see Section 2 above.

## 12. WORKLOAD

The Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Committee on Workloads and Assessment has laid down guidelines as to the number of hours per week which students are expected to devote to a course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. Students enrolling in a 300-level, second trimester, 24-point course **should work on average 18 hours per week, including the 3 contact hours**—i.e., in the case of **ITAL 308, 15 hours of private study outside class time**.

### 13. MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**In order to complete ITAL 308**, students are required to do the following, unless specific exemptions have been agreed to:

- i. submit the two written essays by due dates;
- ii. do a seminar presentation on a date agreed with the lecturer;
- iii. sit the final written examination.

**To pass ITAL 308 students must meet the mandatory course requirements and achieve at least an average C over all assessments. Students who gain at least 50% of the course marks, but fail the course due to not satisfying a mandatory course requirement, will receive a K grade. Students who gain less than 50% will receive a D or an E grade, whether or not they have completed the mandatory course requirements.**

The relation of grades to percentages, for any work and for the course as a whole, is as follows: **A+** (85-100%), **A** (80-84%), **A-** (75-79%), **B+** (70-74%), **B** (65-69%), **B-** (60-64%), **C+** (55-59%), **C** (50-54%), **D** (40-49%), **E** (0-39%).

### 14. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT EVALUATIONS

In the **second week** of lectures, staff will facilitate the **election of a class representative**. Student reps are a **valuable means of communication between teaching staff and students**. In addition students can approach any member of staff individually to talk about the courses as a whole, any particular aspect of it, or their own individual progress. **At the end of the course** students may be asked to fill out **questionnaires** prepared by the **University's Teaching and Development Centre**. These questionnaires relate either to the **course**, or to **an individual lecturer's contribution**. They are **an important part of the University's accountability process**, and the results are helpful in the University's attempts to maintain and raise the standards of the education it offers.

### 15. ITALIAN CLUB, STUDENT FACILITIES

All students of Italian are encouraged to join the students' **Italian Club** and to participate in the cultural and social events organised. The Italian seminar room for tutorials and small classes is usually **Von Zedlitz (VZ) 509**, unless otherwise stated. Members of the Italian Club may book this room through the Administrator for Italian Club activities when it is not in use for teaching by the Italian Programme or other Programmes. Room **Von Zedlitz (VZ) 603** is a **library and club room** for Italian students, with noticeboard for the Italian Students' Club. Italian **books, newspapers and magazines** are available for consultation, but please do not take them away.

### 16. THE LANGUAGE LEARNING CENTRE

The **Language Learning Centre (LLC)** on **floor 0** of the **Von Zedlitz Building (VZ)** holds a large collection of **cds, cassette tapes, dvds, videotapes** and **CD-Roms** for all languages including Italian. You can work on any of these materials individually by booking a time and ordering the material from LLC staff. Students are encouraged to consult the list of materials relating to ITAL 308.

## 17. ITAL 308—COURSE TIMETABLE 2005

### Week starting

- |   |           |   |
|---|-----------|---|
| 1 | July 10   | Buzzati (Introduction to course/Life and works of Buzzati/ <i>Sessanta racconti</i> ) |
| 2 | July 17   | Buzzati (close reading of selected passages from 5 <i>racconti</i> )                  |
| 3 | July 24   | Buzzati (close reading of selected passages from 5 <i>racconti</i> )                  |
| 4 | July 31   | Buzzati (close reading of selected passages from 5 <i>racconti</i> )                  |
| 5 | August 7  | Tabucchi (Life and works of Tabucchi/ <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> )                       |
| 6 | August 14 | Tabucchi (close reading of selected passages from <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> : 1-10)     |

**First essay due on Friday, 18 August, 5 pm**

### MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

### Week starting

- |    |              |   |
|----|--------------|---|
| 7  | September 4  | Tabucchi (close reading of selected passages from <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> : 11-20)    |
| 8  | September 11 | Tabucchi (close reading of selected passages from <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> : 21-25)    |
| 9  | September 18 | Capriolo (Life and works of Capriolo/ <i>La grande Eulalia</i> )                      |
| 10 | September 25 | Capriolo (close reading of selected passages from <i>La grande Eulalia</i> )          |
| 11 | October 2    | Capriolo (close reading of selected passages from <i>La donna di pietra</i> )         |
| 12 | October 9    | Capriolo (close reading of selected passages from <i>Il gigante/Lettere a Luisa</i> ) |

**Second essay due on Friday, 6 October, 5 pm**

• **Particular attention will be given to the following short-stories in Dino Buzzati's *Sessanta racconti*:**

1. *I sette messaggeri* (1); 2. *Sette piani* (3); 3. *L'uccisione del drago* (7); 4. *Il crollo della Baliverna* (19); 5. *Appuntamento con Einstein* (23); 6. *L'uomo che volle guarire* (27); 7. *Le tentazioni di Sant'Antonio* (29); 8. *Il musicista invidioso* (32); 9. *Il disco si posò* (36); 10. *L'inaugurazione della strada* (37); 11. *Direttissimo* (40); 12. *Il problema dei posteggi* (47); 13. *Una lettera d'amore* (50); 14. *La parola proibita* (54); 15. *La notizia* (59).

• **Final written examination: date to be advised**

• **Examination/Study period: 16 October-12 November**

# VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

*Tē Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui*



## **General University policies and statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at [www.vuw.ac.nz](http://www.vuw.ac.nz).

## **Student and staff conduct**

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct)

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct)

## **Academic grievances**

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances)

## **Academic integrity and plagiarism**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html)

### **Students with Impairments** (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

telephone: 463-6070

email: [disability@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:disability@vuw.ac.nz)

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

### **Student Support**

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contact is **Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Maori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: [student-services@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:student-services@vuw.ac.nz)) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

[www.vuw.ac.nz/st\\_services/](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/)

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at [education@vuwsa.org.nz](mailto:education@vuwsa.org.nz)) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.