



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

ITALIAN PROGRAMME
ITAL 308 CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN LITERATURE
20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

Trimester dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Last assessment item due: 16 October 2014

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Names and contact details

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School Office Hours: 9.00am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday

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The Course Coordinator and Lecturer for ITAL 308 is Dr Marco Sonzogni. Marco is available for student consultation on Monday and on Wednesday, 2-3pm. Alternative times can be arranged by phone or email.

Class times and locations

Lectures and seminar

Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 3.10pm – 4.00pm in VZ (von Zedlitz) 103

Cell phones should be switched off for the duration of all classes.

Communication of additional information

The Italian noticeboard is in the corridor outside rooms vZ613 and vZ615. Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students either via class, noticeboards, Blackboard, or email.

Course prescription

This course presents a selection of contemporary Italian fiction. The texts are studied in the original language and are analysed through a variety of critical perspectives, which encourage students to develop their own critical approach to the reading of Italian literature.

Course content

The course covers historical, cultural, literary and linguistic aspects of contemporary Italian fiction through a close study of three selected works: two collections of short-stories – *Marcovaldo* by Italo Calvino (1923-1985) and *Sessanta Racconti* by Dino Buzzati (1906-1971) and two novels – *Sostiene Pereira* by Antonio Tabucchi (1943-2012) and *Dove vanno le iguane quando piove* by Antiniska Pozzi (1978).

The aims of this course are as follows:

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.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

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 the narrative dynamics employed in a *romanzo* and in a *racconto*;
- iv. understand and comment on selected texts by contemporary Italian fiction writers.

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

Teaching format

This course is delivered through two lectures and one seminar per week as outlined in the course programme.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, 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 two in-class tests.

Workload

The University Assessment Handbook 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 second trimester, 30-point course should work on average 16 hours per week, including the 3 contact hours – i.e., in the case of ITAL 407, 13 hours of private study outside class time (to be divided between reading the primary texts and preparing individual assessments as indicated below). This adds up to a rough total of 200 hours, including 24 hours of lectures and 11 hours of tutorial/seminar classes. Please note that some students will find they need to do more than this, especially if they are aiming to achieve high grades.

Assessment requirements

Assessment for ITAL 308 is 100% internally assessed.

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 2 (1500-word) Essays, of which at least one must be written in Italian, and both including Italian and English secondary sources.	20% each	1, 2, 5, 6	Friday, 22 August, 4pm Friday, 26 September, 4pm
2 20-minute seminar presentation, in English or Italian, based on both Italian and English secondary sources.	20%	1, 2, 5, 6	Date to be arranged with lecturer
3 2 in-class tests (50 minute each)	20% each	1-6	Thursday 21 August, 3-4pm Thursday 16 October, 3-4pm

Submission and return of work

All assignments must include a cover sheet available from the SLC Office on the sixth floor of von Zedlitz (vZ610). Assignments are to be handed into the Italian assignment box located to the left of the SLC Office (vZ610). Corrected work will be handed out in class. If you do not collect your work in

class, you will be able to collect it from the SLC Office (vZ610) between the hours of 10am-2pm. You will need to show your student ID card to collect work from the office. All work not collected will be destroyed three months after the date of the final written test.

Please make sure to always keep a copy of any assignment you hand in.

Extensions and penalties

The due dates for the assignments given in the Course Programme 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 assignments.

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.

Set texts

There are three set texts (any edition is acceptable):

- Dino Buzzati, *Sessanta Racconti*.
- Italo Calvino, *Marcovaldo*.
- Antonio Tabucchi, *Sostiene Pereira, una testimonianza*.
- Antiniska Pozzi, *Dove vanno le iguane quando piove* (provided).

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).

Particular attention will be given to the following short-stories in Calvino's *Marcovaldo*: 1. *Funghi in città* 2. *La villeggiatura in panchina* 3. *La città smarrita nella neve* 4. *La cura delle vespe* 5. *Il bosco sull'autostrada* 6. *Il coniglio velenoso* 7. *La fermata sbagliata* 8. *Marcovaldo al supermarket* 9. *La città tutta per lui* 10. *Il giardino dei gatti ostinati*. While reading *Marcovaldo*, we will also read Calvino's posthumous collection of literary lectures, *Six Memos for the New Millennium*, where he talks about the essential qualities of a work of literature.

All textbooks and student notes can be purchased from Vic Books, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. They can also be ordered online at www.vicbooks.co.nz. Orders and enquiries can be emailed to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students. Class reps will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how the course is going and to raise any

concerns or suggestions that they may have. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the VUWSA website: www.vuwsa.org.nz. Students may wish to write the Class Rep's name and details below:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Responses to feedback on this course will be discussed in class and/or delivered via Blackboard. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Language Learning Centre (LLC) Level 0, von Zedlitz Building

The Language Learning Centre (LLC) is the Library's technology-rich, multimedia centre supporting language learning.

At the LLC you can practise and extend your language learning. You can:

- Find materials to support your language studies, including dictionaries, textbooks and graded readers.
- Study independently using language learning software, audio material and DVDs.
- Find a welcoming environment with services and events, and onsite assistance and support for languages
- Become a Language Buddy or find a conversation group.

Visit the LLC on Level 0, von Zedlitz Building and take a look at our website www.victoria.ac.nz/llc

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability

- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Course programme

Week starting	Topics	Assessment
1 14 July	Introductory remarks (1) – Dino Buzzati and <i>Sessanta racconti</i> (2)	
2 21 July	Buzzati's <i>Sessanta Racconti</i> (3)	
3 28 July	Buzzati's <i>Sessanta racconti</i> (2) - Italo Calvino and <i>Marcovaldo</i> (1)	
4 4 August	Calvino's <i>Marcovaldo</i> (3)	
5 11 August	Calvino's <i>Marcovaldo</i> (3)	FIRST ESSAY DUE ON FRIDAY 15 AUGUST 4PM
6 18 August	Tabucchi and <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> (3)	IN-CLASS TEST 1 THURSDAY 21 AUGUST
MID – TRIMESTER BREAK 25 AUGUST– 7 SEPTEMBER		
7 8 September		
8 15 September	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> (3)	
9 22 September	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> (3) Screening of film adaptation of <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> (outside class time)	SECOND ESSAY DUE ON FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 4PM
10 29 September	Antiniska Pozzi and <i>Dove vanno le iguane quando piove</i> (3)	
11 6 October	Pozzi's <i>Dove vanno le iguane quando piove</i> (3)	
12 13 October	Pozzi's <i>Dove vanno le iguane quando piove</i> (1) – Conclusion and revision (2)	IN-CLASS TEST THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER

Seminar Presentations

You must sign up for a seminar presentation worth 20% of the final mark. Presentations will be planned and assigned during the first week.