

ITALIAN GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SPRING 2024

Italian 460 / Com Arts 460: Italian Film

Professor Patrick Rumble

Meeting Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30 – 3:45 pm

This course offers a survey of the history of Italian cinema from the Second World War up to today, examining the work of key filmmakers in the Italian art cinema tradition, including Rossellini, De Sica, Antonioni, Pasolini, Cavani, Bertolucci, Fellini, Moretti, and Gioli. Students will be introduced to important film movements and trends including Futurism, Neorealism, the Commedia all'italiana, Auteurist cinema, Feminist filmmaking, Avant-Garde film and Environmental cinema.

Italian 636: The Italian Novel

Professor Grazia Menechella

Meeting Times: Thursdays, 4:00 – 6:30 pm

Meets with IT 450 Theme: Letteratura postcoloniale Italiana

This course (conducted in Italian) focuses on issues of transnational identity, diaspora, migration, and postcolonial Italian literature and culture from 1990 to 2024. Among the required readings is fiction by Igiaba Scego, Cristina Ali Farah, Gabriella Ghermandi, Carmine Abate, and Amara Lakhous.

Italian 952: Love in Medieval Literature. The Invention of Western Love

Professor Jelena Todorovic

Meeting Times: Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00 pm

This course will investigate the concept of love from the Occitan troubadours to Francesco Petrarca, following chronologically the development of the main ideas around the notion of *amor* in both religious and secular contexts, focusing chiefly on the latter. The course will also explore the “lateral” responses to the mainstream ideas about love.

In consideration of the Italian PhD language requirement:

French 391: French for Reading Knowledge

Professor Anne Vila

Meeting Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:00 – 2:15 pm

Overview of Course Goals and Structure

The goal of this course is to give students with no previous knowledge of French the ability to read texts that are necessary or useful for their research. The fundamental elements of French grammar are given over the course of the semester. Basic exercises focus on translation from French to English. A good deal of memorization will be required, but students will generally not be expected to reproduce forms in French, just to recognize them. French pronunciation will NOT be studied extensively, and students will NOT learn to speak French or to understand spoken French, just to read texts written in French.

No previous knowledge of French is required; those who have studied some French but cannot yet read texts in their field of research are welcome to take the course. French 391 can be taken by graduate students in many departments as a means of fulfilling a foreign language reading requirement (please consult your department regarding its particular policies). Undergraduates with sophomore standing are also eligible to take this course, which is appropriate if they plan to go on to graduate school in a field other than French. [Please note: this course does NOT count for credit toward the French major or the undergraduate certificate in French.]

The course requires very regular attendance and systematically keeping up with the material. There will be in-class closed-book exams about every 3 weeks or so, and six at-home translation assignments over the course of the semester. There may be short quizzes now and then. For their final work, students will have a choice between taking a final exam and doing a "capstone" translation project.

During the first third of the semester, our reading/translation exercises will be based largely upon the passages provided in the French for Reading textbook, which represent a range of fields in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences. As the semester progresses, students will have the opportunity to concentrate individually on texts pertinent to their particular discipline. With that in mind, I will ask all students to start looking early in the semester for an article, book chapter, or other work written in French (and not already translated into English) that they can contribute to our course materials. I will use portions of those texts for our in-class exercises and draw from the pool of student-submitted texts for some of your take-home translations assignments.

This is a lively course with plenty of student interaction, and lots of individual guidance from the instructor.

Texts:

- Sandberg and Tatham, *French for Reading* (Prentice-Hall, 1968) **[required]**. NOTE: A pdf of the French for Reading textbook will be provided in Canvas.
- *Collins-Robert French-English Dictionary* **[highly recommended]**
- Additional required materials (grammar worksheets, articles, and excerpts for translation) will be provided electronically to students through the Canvas course site over the course of the semester. I will also distribute some of these materials as handouts in class.

