

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2021-2022** Ital 299 A: Italy, a trip  
(Fall Term)

Instructor: William Anselmi  
Office: n/a  
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wanselmi@ualberta.ca  
Personal Website: n/a  
Course Website: n/a

Time: Tue. /Thu. 2:00 - 3:20  
Place: remote connection  
Office Hours: Thu. 3:30 – 4:30  
or by appointment

**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** no prerequisite necessary

**Technology requirements (minimum):**

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course: a computer and internet connection.

**Experiential Learning Component**

n/a

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

No, not needed

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

NA

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

*Italy, a trip* is a course built around Italy, an intellectual and emotional journey\* through its geopolitical reality, its history, its culture (art, film, literature, design) and the outside challenges to its sovereignty throughout the centuries. The films we'll be watching will act as historic-cognitive aggregators, for example and starting with Pasolini's *Decameron* we'll deal with the birth of Humanism, Italian language and literature through to the Rinascimento, the rebirth of the perspective in painting and what such a cultural shift meant and means for us "postmodernists". We have several guests who will help along - a novelist: Daniel Di Schuler, a journalist and social critic: Antonella Beccaria, a poet: Laura Accerboni. At the end of the course, it will have become clear how base stereotypes can be; the clear place that Italy occupies, albeit with tensions, in the world of academia and world culture; the complexity of the subject

**Italy** and the impossibility to circumscribe Italy by the parameters set up in this course (self-irony). We'll not concentrate on spaghetti, mandolins, Mario's moustache nor on Sophia Loren's sex appeal or why Italy's soccer team is, and has been, one of the world powers. You will, by the end of the course, know something about Italy, your Italy, the Italy that you will have made yours in your mind as you travel maybe like Ulysses or Aeneas or Amerigo Vespucci through this *impossible* course.

\*In past centuries a journey to Italy *Il viaggio in Italia*, visiting its art treasures and natural beauties was seen as mandatory by the economic and intellectual elites of Europe (including England), one name for all: Goethe.

**Course Format:** The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, guest presentations, assigned readings and audiovisual materials.

**Films:**

**Films (available through the UofA library, and in order by which they will be seen):**

Pasolini – *The Decameron*

Fellini – *Casanova*

Visconti – *The Leopard*

Bertolucci – *The Conformist*

Fellini – *La dolce vita*

Sergio Leone – *Duck, you sucker!*

Chiesa – *Lavorare con lentezza*

Sorrentino – *La grande bellezza*

Campbell Scott, Stanley Tucci – *Big night*

**Texts:**

**Required:**

Anna Cento Bull – *Modern Italy A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Tim Parks – *A Literary Tour of Italy*. Alma Books, 2015.

Giampiero Bosoni – *Italian Design*. MoMA, 2008.

**Recommended:**

Beppe Severgnini – *La Bella Figura. A Field Guide to the Italian Mind*. Broadway Books, 2006.

Heinrich Wofflin- *Principles of Art History, The problem of the development of Style in Later art*. Dover, 1950. [Can be found as pdf at:  
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/arena-attachments/329532/c75bc5c9d892c9e53bced5d8bc234c8a.pdf>]

John Berger – *Ways of Seeing*. Penguin, 1972 [Can be found as pdf at:  
<http://waysofseeingwaysofseeing.com/ways-of-seeing-john-berger-5.7.pdf>]

**Additional Course Fees**

No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2021

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: October 4, 2021

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2021

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2021

Final Exam Date n/a

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): *n/a*

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

**Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

30% Personal Italian Journey Log (PIJL), weekly entries (due by Dec. 7, 2021)

20% Literary Presentation (starting Sept. 7, 2021)

20% Participation (ongoing through the term)

30% Final essay 1900-2100 words (Dec. 10, 2021)

*Fall/Winter Exam Planner for the 2021-2022 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2021-winter-2022-exam-planner.html>*

### **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

The **PIJL** is basically a “diary” of your journey, attendance is obviously necessary. You can treat it as travel log. You can use the entries as material for your final essay if you so choose.

The **Literary Presentation** is of your choice from Tim Parks’ book. You choose an author to present from the book’s list. Consider 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion for a total of 30 minutes. And, yes, you can work with a colleague.

**Participation** is based on attendance, contribution to the conversation in class, critical positioning, personal stories, personal readings and reflections, etc. and it’s worth 20% of your final mark.

**Final Essay** is an essay of about 1900-2100 words in English where you critically analyze a subject about Italy that particularly interests you. All subjects are welcome and you can use your journey entries and expand upon them in the body of the essay. Plagiarism of any kind is strictly forbidden. No subject is taboo as long as it relates to “Italy” be it religion, sexuality, politics, cuisine, Mafia, North/South divide, Fascism, the presence and social control of the Vatican (a foreign power) upon Italy’s society, likewise for Anglo-American interference as most recently as Gladio (Operation Stay Behind) since and, according to a memorable Trumpian affirmation, Americans have been friends of Italians for millennia.

In this course attendance is mandatory.

### **Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:**

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#).

### **Policy for Late Assignments:**

*Dates prescribed are not negotiable. Should you be sick or otherwise incapacitated circumstances will be taken into account accordingly. See note above.*

**Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

**Student Responsibilities:*****Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

[The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students maximize their academic success and achieve their academic goals. We offer appointments, advising, group workshops, online courses, and specialized programming year-round to students in all university programs, and at all levels of achievement and study.

They also administer the University of Alberta's [Duty to Accommodate procedure](#) for students and works with students, instructors, campus units, Faculties and departments, community and government agencies, and on and off-campus service providers to coordinate students' disability-related accommodation needs for participation in university programs.

For general information and to register for services visit the [Academic Accommodations](#) webpage.

[The Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

[The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

[Health and Wellness Support for Students](#) outlines available mental and physical health resources that are offered on-campus and in the community.

[The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) is a confidential service that strives to ensure that university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. We offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.

**Learning and working environment:**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment.

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

**Course additional statement:** The above mandatory statement is very problematic and must be challenged for the way it implies and reduces the reality of multicultural Canada. By reducing all immigrants to colonizers whitewashes the responsibility of the so-called settlers and colonizers: English and French by making all other ethnocultural

groups culpable of the tragic history of Canada’s colonization and in so doing distorting/rewriting history and the process of colonization of Canada (if we’re all culpable no one is).

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) section of the University Calendar.

**Grading:**

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student’s level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<p><b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.</p>	A+	4.0	<b>95-100</b>
	A	4.0	<b>90-94</b>
	A-	3.7	<b>86-89</b>
<p><b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p>	B+	3.3	<b>82-85</b>
	B	3.0	<b>75-81</b>
	B-	2.7	<b>70-74</b>
<p><b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>	C+	2.3	<b>66-69</b>
	C	2.0	<b>61-65</b>
	C-	1.7	<b>58-60</b>
<p><b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>	D+	1.3	<b>55-57</b>
	D	1.0	<b>50-54</b>

<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-49</b>

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