

ITAL 308 Contemporary Italian Literature

School of Languages & Cultures

Trimester 2 2008

24 Points

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

STAFF

The Italian Programme of the School of Languages and Cultures (SLC) is located on the 5th and 6th Floors of the Von Zedlitz (VZ) Building, Kelburn Parade. Staff Offices in the Italian Section are as follows:

VZ 601	Claudia Bernardi claudia.bernardi@vuw.ac.nz	Programme Director & Lecturer	ph. 463 5646
VZ 602	Dr Sarah (Sally) Hill sarah.hill@vuw.ac.nz	Lecturer	ph. 463 5298
VZ 504	Dr Marco Sonzogni marco.sonzogni@vuw.ac.nz	Lecturer	ph. 463 6284
VZ 607	Palmiro Sportoletti palmiro.sportoletti@vuw.ac.nz	Italian Government Lector	ph. 463 5974
VZ 607	Sibilla Paparatti sibilla.paparatti@vuw.ac.nz	Tutor	ph. 463 5974
VZ 610	Nina Cuccurullo (Nina is available from 8.15am to 4.15pm, Monday to Friday) nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz	Administrator	ph. 463 5293
SLC Co-ordinator for Students with Disabilities VZ 613	Dr Richard Millington richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz		ph. 463 5976
SLC Co-ordinator for Maori and Pacific Students VZ 613	Dr Richard Millington richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz		ph. 463 5976

The Course Co-ordinator and Lecturer for ITAL 308 is Dr Marco Sonzogni. Marco is available for consultation on academic or administrative matters relating to the course at times indicated on his office door. Alternative times can be arranged by phone or email.

CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

Lectures

Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.00am - 9.50am in VZ (Von Zedlitz) 509

Cellular phones and pagers should be switched off for the duration of all classes.

COURSE 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 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.

EXPECTED 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.

TEXTS

There are three set texts:

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

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

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).

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 three-hour written examination (40%).

The relevant dates for assessed work are detailed in the course timetable.

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%).

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 essays must include a cover sheet either supplied or available from the SLC Reception, Von Zedlitz (VZ) 610. Essays are to be handed in to the Italian assignment slot located to the left of the SLC 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 SLC Reception. All work not collected will be destroyed 3 months after the date of the final written test.

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.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT EVALUATIONS

In the second week of lectures, staff will facilitate the election of a class representative for each lecture group. 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 course 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.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Italian noticeboard is in the corridor outside the rooms (VZ 503 and VZ 504). Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students either via class, noticeboards, Blackboard, or email.

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. Room Von Zedlitz (VZ) 603 is a *library* where Italian books, newspapers and magazines are available for borrowing and consultation.

LANGUAGE LEARNING CENTRE

The Language Learning Centre (Level 0, von Zedlitz Building) facilitates independent learning and supports the teaching of languages. The LLC is a friendly and supportive environment where you can immerse yourself in language and culture through access to a variety of multimedia language resources: everything from print, audio, DVDs, comprehensive computer software and access to live satellite TV in several languages.

Visit the Centre at any time for advice and assistance, and to study. It is open year-round, with extended hours during University trimesters.

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: 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.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

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 hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at: http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

Academic Grievances

Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments

Student and Staff Conduct

Student Support

COURSE PROGRAMME

1	July 7	Buzzati (Introduction to course/Life and works of Buzzati/ <i>Sessanta racconti</i>)
2	July 14	Buzzati (close reading of selected passages from 5 <i>racconti</i>)
3	July 21	Buzzati (close reading of selected passages from 5 <i>racconti</i>)
4	July 28	Buzzati (close reading of selected passages from 5 <i>racconti</i>)
5	August 4	Tabucchi (Life and works of Tabucchi/ <i>Sostiene Pereira</i>)
6	August 11	Tabucchi (close reading of selected passages from <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> : 1-10)

FIRST ESSAY DUE ON FRIDAY 8 AUGUST 5 PM

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK 18 AUGUST 2008 – 31 AUGUST 2008

7	September 1	Tabucchi (close reading of selected passages from <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> : 11-20)
8	September 8	Tabucchi (close reading of selected passages from <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> : 21-25)
9	September 15	Capriolo (Life and works of Capriolo/ <i>La grande Eulalia</i>)
10	September 22	Capriolo (close reading of selected passages from <i>La grande Eulalia</i>)
11	September 29	Capriolo (close reading of selected passages from <i>La donna di pietra</i>)
12	October 6	Capriolo (close reading of selected passages from <i>Lettere a Luisa</i>)

SECOND ESSAY DUE ON FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 5 PM

FINAL WRITTEN EXAMINATION to be held during the Examination Period

(17 OCTOBER 2008 - 8 NOVEMBER 2008: date to be advised)

Seminar Presentations

You must sign up for a seminar presentation worth 20% of final mark. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the Italian Programme Noticeboard on the 5th floor of the Von Zedlitz (VZ) building by the end of the first week.