

**SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**

**ITALIAN PROGRAMME**

**ITAL 407 SPECIAL TOPIC: CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN LITERATURE**

**TRIMESTER 2 2010**

12 July to 13 November 2010

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

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: Monday 12 July – Friday 15 October

Mid-trimester break: 23 August – 5 September

Study week begins: Monday 18 October

End of trimester: Saturday 13 November

Examination period: Friday 22 October - Saturday 13 November

Please note students should be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**Names and contact details**

Teaching Staff:

VZ602	Dr Marco Sonzogni marco.sonzogni@vuw.ac.nz	Senior Lecturer Course coordinator	ph. 463 6284
22KP 208	David Manenti davide.manenti@vuw.ac.nz	Tutor	ph. 463 6875

School Administrators: (Office hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm)

VZ610	Nina Cuccurullo nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz		ph. 463 5293
	Lancy Knott lancy.knott@vuw.ac.nz		ph. 463 5318
	Tessa Seemann tessa.seemann@vuw.ac.nz		ph. 463 5635

Contact Person for Maori and Pacific Students and Students with Disabilities:

VZ507	Dr Ross Woods ross.woods@vuw.ac.nz		ph. 463 5098
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The Course Co-ordinator and Lecturer for ITAL 407 is Dr Marco Sonzogni. Marco is available for consultation on academic or administrative matters relating to the course on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12 to 1. Alternative times can be arranged by phone or email.

## Class times and locations

### Lectures and seminar

Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays 3.10pm – 4.00pm in VZ (von Zelditz) 509

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

## Course delivery

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

## Communication of additional information

The Italian noticeboard is in the corridor outside the rooms (VZ503 and VZ504). Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students either via class, noticeboards, Blackboard, or email.

## Course content

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 Italo Calvino (1923-1985) and Dino Buzzati (1906-1971) respectively, and one novel by Antonio Tabucchi (1943).

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.

## Learning 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 one trimester, 400-level, 30-point course should work on average 24 hours per week including the three contact hours - i.e., in the case of ITAL 407, 21 *hours of private study outside class time*.

## Readings

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

- I. Calvino, *Marcovaldo*, Milano: Mondadori, Torino: Einaudi (1980)

- D. Buzzati, *Sessanta racconti*, Milano: Mondadori, 1994 (1958)
- A. Tabucchi, *Sostiene Pereira*, Milano: Feltrinelli, 2005 (1994)

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*.

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).

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am - 6.00 pm, Monday - Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

### Assessment requirements

Assessment for ITAL 407 is a combination of in-term assessment (60%) and a final three-hour examination (40%), as follows:

- 2 (2,500 word) essays (20% each);
- 1 seminar presentation in Italian (20%);
- 1 final three-hour written examination (40%).

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

### 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.

### Mandatory course requirements

In order to pass ITAL 407, students are required to do the following, unless specific exemptions have been agreed to:

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

### 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.

### **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, 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.

### **Student 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. Room von Zedlitz (VZ) 603 is a library where Italian books, newspapers and magazines are available for borrowing and consultation. Please note this room will also be used for Honours classes so please check timetable on door.

### **Language Learning Centre (LLC)**

The Language Learning Centre (LLC) is Victoria's technology-rich, multimedia centre supporting independent language learning and teaching.

At the Language Learning Centre you can:

- study at a time that suits you
- select the materials or activities that you find interesting
- meet your needs: match your level and learning style

Access a variety of multimedia language resources at the LLC: everything from print, audio materials, foreign language TV and DVDs to comprehensive computer software. The LLC provides access to your digital course material on a server. Drop by the centre to find out more about our services (Level 0 von Zedlitz Building).

### **Academic integrity and plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately.

This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **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* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at: [http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx)

### Course programme

Week starting	Topics	Assessment
1 July 12	Introductory remarks /Calvino's <i>Marcovaldo</i>	
2 July 19	Calvino's <i>Marcovaldo</i>	
3 July 26	Calvino's <i>Marcovaldo</i>	
4 August 2	Buzzati's <i>Sessanta racconti</i>	
5 August 9	Buzzati's <i>Sessanta racconti</i>	<b>FIRST ESSAY DUE ON FRIDAY 13 AUGUST 5 PM</b>
6 August 16	<b>Buzzati's <i>Sessanta racconti</i></b>	
<b>MID – TRIMESTER BREAK 23 AUGUST– 5 SEPTEMBER</b>		
7 September 6	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i>	
8 September 13	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i>	
9 September 20	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i>	<b>SECOND ESSAY DUE ON FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 5 PM</b>
10 September 27	Screening of film adaptation of <i>Sostiene Pereira</i>	
11 October 4	Screening of film adaptation of <i>Sostiene Pereira</i>	
12 October 11	Closing remarks /exam revision	

**FINAL WRITTEN EXAMINATION to be held during the Examination Period  
(22 OCTOBER 2010 – 13 NOVEMBER 2010: 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 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Von Zedlitz (VZ) building by the end of the first week.