



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**

**ITALIAN PROGRAMME  
ITAL 308 CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN LITERATURE**

**TRIMESTER 2 2012**

16 July to 17 November 2012

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

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 16 July to 19 October 2012

Mid-trimester break: 27 August to 9 September 2012

Study week: 22–26 October 2012

Examination/Assessment period: 26 October to 17 November 2012

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**

**Course Coordinator  
and Lecturer:**

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**Contact Person for Maori & Pasifika Students**      Dr Ross Woods  
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The Course Coordinator and Lecturer for ITAL 308 is Dr Marco Sonzogni. Marco is available for student consultation at the times indicated on the door of his office. Alternative times can be arranged by phone or email.

### **Class times and locations**

#### **Lectures and seminar**

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 3.10pm – 4.00pm in VZ (von Zedlitz) 509

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

### **Teaching learning summary**

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 rooms vZ503 and vZ504. 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 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.

### **Course Feedback**

The content and delivery of this course reflect the suggestions put forward by students in the course and teaching evaluations as well as in spontaneous feedback collected throughout the year.

## 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 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 one-trimester, 300-level, 20-point course should work on average 13 hours per week including the three contact hours - i.e., in the case of ITAL 308, 10 hours of private study outside class time.

## Readings

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

Dino Buzzati, *Sessanta Racconti*.

Italo Calvino, *Marcovaldo*.

Antonio Tabucchi, *Sostiene Pereira, una testimonianza*.

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 undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 9–27 July 2012, 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 of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 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 nominated collection points at each campus. 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 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.

### **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 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.

### **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 Office, von Zedlitz (VZ) 610. Essays are to be handed in to the Italian assignment slot located to the left of the SLC Office. Corrected work will be handed out in class. If you do not collect work in class, you will be able to collect it from the SLC Office. 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. Class representatives will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how your courses are going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have.

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

Do you want to...

- ...further improve your language skills outside of class time?
- ...access digital material for your course?
- ...watch the latest foreign language movies or television between classes?
- ...use exciting software tools to practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking?
- ...get together with your classmates and practise conversation in a foreign language?
- ...become a language buddy?
- ...learn about useful tips and strategies that can help you with your language learning?

Then visit us and immerse yourself in the language of your choice in a friendly and supportive environment. For opening hours, upcoming events, and useful external links, check out our website:

[www.victoria.ac.nz/llc](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc)

## 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>

## Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study). Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress).

Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice- Chancellor (Academic) at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/victoria/academic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/victoria/academic).

## Course programme

Week starting	Topics	Assessment
1 16 July	Introductory remarks (1) – Dino Buzzati and <i>Sessanta racconti</i> (2)	
2 23 July	Buzzati's <i>Sessanta Racconti</i> (3)	
3 30 July	Buzzati's <i>Sessanta racconti</i> (3)	
4 6 August	Buzzati's <i>Sessanta racconti</i> (1) – Italo Calvino and <i>Marcovaldo</i> (2)	
5 13 August	Calvino's <i>Marcovaldo</i> (3)	<b>FIRST ESSAY DUE ON FRIDAY 17 AUGUST 4PM</b>
6 20 August	Calvino's <i>Marcovaldo</i> (3)	
<b>MID – TRIMESTER BREAK 27 AUGUST– 9 SEPTEMBER</b>		
7 10 September	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i>	
8 17 September	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i>	
9 24 September	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i>	<b>SECOND ESSAY DUE ON FRIDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 4PM</b>
10 1 October	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i>	
11 8 October	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> (1) – Screening of film adaptation of <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> (2)	
12 15 October	Conclusion and exam revision (3)	

**FINAL WRITTEN EXAMINATION to be held during the Examination Period  
26 October to 17 November 2012: date to be advised**

### 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.