



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

**ITALIAN PROGRAMME
ITAL 308 CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN LITERATURE
20 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 1 2016

Trimester dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24-30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Names and contact details

**Course Coordinator
and Lecturer:**

Dr Marco Sonzogni

Office: vZ603

Phone: 463 6284

Email: marco.sonzogni@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Monday and on Wednesday, 12-1pm. Alternative times can be arranged by phone or email.

Administrators:

Nina Cuccurullo

Office: vZ610

Phone: 463 5293

Email: nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz

Ida Li

Office: vZ610

Phone: 463 5318

Email: ida.li@vuw.ac.nz

School Office Hours: 9.00am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday

**Contact Person for Māori
and Pasifika Students:**

Dr Ross Woods

Office: vZ504

Phone: 463 5098

Email: ross.woods@vuw.ac.nz

Contact Person for Students with Disabilities: Dr Andrea Hepworth
Office: vZ604
Phone: 463 5321
Email: andrea.hepworth@vuw.ac.nz

School Website: www.victoria.ac.nz/slc

Class times and locations

Lectures and seminar

Mondays	11am – 11.50am	VZ (von Zedlitz) 710
Wednesdays	10am – 11.50am	VZ (von Zedlitz) 710

Cell phones should be switched off for the duration of all classes.

Communication of additional information

The Italian noticeboard is in the corridor outside rooms vZ613 and vZ615. 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 historical, cultural, literary and linguistic aspects of contemporary Italian fiction through a close study of three selected works: two collections of short-stories – *Marcovaldo* by Italo Calvino (1923-1985) and *Sessanta Racconti* by Dino Buzzati (1906-1971) and two novels – *Sostiene Pereira* by Antonio Tabucchi (1943-2012) and *Dove vanno le iguane quando piove* by Antiniska Pozzi (1978).

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 learning objectives (CLOs)

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.

Teaching format

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

Mandatory course requirements (MCRs)

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, 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 two in-class tests.

These course requirements are related to the course learning objectives in a timely and effective way and intended to help students achieve such learning objectives in a timely and effective way.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

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 second trimester, 30-point course should work on average 16 hours per week, including the 3 contact hours – i.e., in the case of ITAL 407, 13 hours of private study outside class time (to be divided between reading the primary texts and preparing individual assessments as indicated below). This adds up to a rough total of 200 hours, including 24 hours of lectures and 11 hours of tutorial/seminar classes. Please note that some students will find they need to do more than this, especially if they are aiming to achieve high grades.

Assessment requirements

Assessment for ITAL 308 is 100% internally assessed.

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 2 x 1500-word Essay	20% each	1, 2, 5, 6	Thursday, 31 March 2016, 4pm Thursday, 19 May 2016, 4pm
2 2 x 20 minute seminar presentation (in English or Italian, based on both Italian and English secondary source)	10% each	1, 2, 5, 6	Dates to be arranged with lecturer
3 2 x 50 minute in-class test	20% each	1-6	Wednesday, 6 April 2016 Wednesday, 25 May 2016

Submission and return of work

All assignments must include a cover sheet available from the SLC Office on the sixth floor of von Zedlitz (vZ610). Assignments are to be handed into the Italian assignment box located to the left of the SLC Office (vZ610). Corrected work will be handed out in class. If you do not collect your work in class, you will be able to collect it from the SLC Office (vZ610) between the hours of 10am-2pm. You will need to show your student ID card to collect work from the office. All work not collected will be destroyed three months after the date of the final written test.

Please make sure to always keep a copy of any assignment you hand in.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

The due dates for the assignments given in the Course Programme *must* be adhered to. Extensions with no penalty will be considered on the grounds of exceptional personal circumstances, but the Course Coordinator should always be contacted on or before the due dates if there is a problem.

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 Coordinator 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.

Please note that no work for assessment will be accepted after Friday 17 June 2016, 4pm.

The dates of the tests given in the Course Programme *must* be adhered to. You should always sit a test if humanly possible, obtaining a medical certificate if you wish to claim impairment. If you sit a test but believe your performance has been radically affected by some medical or other factor, inform the Course Coordinator *immediately*. If you fail the test, you may be able to claim impairment.

If you are unable to sit a test, for severe medical, personal or family reasons, you should do everything possible to notify the Course Coordinator, if necessary through the Administrator, *before* the test, or to get a friend or family member to do so on your behalf.

Only in cases of severe illness or other exceptionally difficult circumstances, which must normally be documented, can the Programme consider allowing students to sit a test at a different time from that indicated.

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.

Set texts

Sessanta Racconti, Dino Buzzati

Marcovaldo, Italo Calvino

Sostiene Pereira, una testimonianza, Antonio Tabucchi

Dove vanno le iguane quando piove, Antiniska Pozzi

Set texts can be purchased from Vic Books, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. They can also be ordered online at www.vicbooks.co.nz. Orders and enquiries can be emailed to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

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.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

Class reps will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how the course is going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the VUWSA website: www.vuwsa.org.nz.

Student feedback

Feedback for this course has been consistently good over the years. Students have particularly enjoyed the close reading of the primary texts and the opportunity to respond to them creatively as part of their written and oral assignments. Student feedback will be discussed in the first class and a note will be posted on Blackboard.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Language Learning Centre (LLC)

The Language Learning Centre (LLC) is the University's technology-rich, multimedia centre supporting language learning.

At the LLC you can practise and extend your language learning. You can:

- Find materials to support your language studies, including dictionaries, textbooks and graded readers.
- Study independently using language learning software, audio material and DVDs.
- Find a welcoming environment with services and events, and onsite assistance and support for languages
- Become a Language Buddy or find a conversation group.

Visit the LLC on Level 0, von Zedlitz Building and take a look at our website www.victoria.ac.nz/llc.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf

- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Course programme

Week starting	Topics	Assessment
1 29 Feb	Introductory remarks (1) – Dino Buzzati and <i>Sessanta racconti</i> (2)	
2 7 Mar	Buzzati's <i>Sessanta Racconti</i> (3)	
3 14 Mar	Buzzati's <i>Sessanta racconti</i> (2) - Italo Calvino and <i>Marcovaldo</i> (1)	
4 21 Mar	Calvino's <i>Marcovaldo</i> (3)	
EASTER BREAK (24 March – 30 March)		
5 31 Mar	Calvino's <i>Marcovaldo</i> (3)	First Essay – Thursday 31 March, 4pm
6 4 Apr	Tabucchi and <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> (3)	First Test – Wednesday 6 April
7 11 Apr	Tabucchi and <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> (3)	
8 18 Apr	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> (3)	
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK (25 April – 29 April)		
9 2 May	Tabucchi's <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> (3) Screening of film adaptation of <i>Sostiene Pereira</i> (outside class time)	
10 9 May	Pozzi and <i>Dove vanno le iguane quando piove</i> (3)	
11 16 May	Pozzi's <i>Dove vanno le iguane quando piove</i> (3)	Second Essay – Thursday 19 May, 4pm
12 23 May	Conclusion and Revision (2)	Second Test – Wednesday 25 May
13 30 May	New voices: Volpi's <i>Oceano Padano</i> and Dentello's <i>Finché dura la colpa</i> (2)	

Seminar Presentations

You must sign up for two seminar presentations worth 20% (10% each) of the final mark. Presentations will be planned and assigned during the first week.