

## **ITA 4930 THE LATIN LOVER: ITAL LIT & CINE**

("Italians Do It Better")

GS 102 TR 04:00-05:50 PM

Teacher: Emanuele Pettener.

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Office Hour: by appointment, or Tuesday, 2-3 P.M in AL 150

The course will analyze the figure of the Italian lover in Italian Literature from its origins to our age. In class and at home, students are expected to read the most exciting pages of Italian writers presenting seductive Italian women and men. We will see how the concept of *eros* developed, how the vision of woman shifts continuously from angel to prostitute and vice versa, how the reserved and shy seducer of the Middle Ages becomes the provocative and audacious lover in D'Annunzio's novels and its parody in Brancati's work.

The teacher will introduce the authors and their works providing the students with a clear idea of each historical period. He will also stimulate debate in class with questions and critical information. Class participation is of the utmost importance: the student should not be afraid to take possession of the text and speak about it like with ease.

The students are expected to write three five-page papers and take a written comprehensive exam.

Books to be purchased: Dante Alighieri, *Vita Nuova/A New Life*; Nicolo' Machiavelli, *Mandragola*; Giacomo Casanova, *Story of my Life*; Gabriele D'Annunzio, *The Child of Pleasure*; Vitaliano Brancati, *Bell'Antonio*.

### **Evaluation:**

Papers: 60%

Written Exam: 20%

Participation: 20%

**First week (Jan.8):** introduction to the course.

**Second week (Jan 13 -15) :** Love in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (Andrea Cappellano. Scuola Siciliana; Scuola Toscana; and Dolce Stil Novo). The woman is *like* an angel ...

**Third week (Jan.20-22):** Dante: *A New Life*. The woman *is* an angel ... [ **JAN 14: LAST DAY TO DROP/ADD COURSES; JAN 15: LAST DAY TO PAY FEES. 50\$ LATE FEE TO ADD AFTER THIS DATE.**]

**Fourth week (Jan.27-29):** seducers and seduced in Hell: readings from *The Divine Comedy*. **FIRST PAPER DUE**

**Fifth week (Feb. 3 -5):** Love-stories in Purgatory and in Paradise: Readings from the *Divine Comedy*.

**Sixth week (Feb. 10-12):** Toward a new conception of the woman and of the seducer: Francesco Petrarca. Readings from *Canzoniere*.

**Seventh week (Feb 17-19):** The joys of love, sex (and revenge) in the seducers of Boccaccio. Readings from *Decameron*.

**Eighth week (Feb 24-26):** Readings from *Decameron*. Viewing of parts of Pasolini's movie "Decameron" **SECOND PAPER DUE. [ FEB 27: LAST DAY TO DROP A COURSE OR WHITDRAW WITHOUT RECEIVING AN 'F']**

**Ninth week (March 2-4):** Figures of seductive women in Ariosto, Machiavelli and Tasso. "Mandragola". A great seducer and poet, obviously a Venetian: Veronica Franco. Viewing of the movie: "Dangerous Beauty."

**SPRING BREAK: March 8-13: Happy Holidays!**

**Tenth week (March 16-18):** The Greatest lover of all time, obviously a Venetian: Giacomo Casanova. "Story of my Life."

**Eleventh week (March 23-25):** The frustrated lover. Readings from Foscolo and Leopardi.

**Twelfth week (March 30-April 1):** The Italian lover. D'Annunzio: "Child of Pleasure"  
**WRITTEN QUIZ.**

**Thirteenth week (April 6-8):** The parody of the Italian lover. Brancati: "Bell'Antonio". Viewing of the movie "Divorce Italian Style".

**Fourteenth week (April 13-15):** The Italian lover in the contemporary literary age.  
**THIRD PAPER DUE**

**Fifteenth week (April 20-22):** Reflections, conclusions, and a question: do really Italians do it better?

**April 21: Reading Day.**

**Buona lettura!**