Texas A & M University
Department of International Studies
Spring 2013
ITAL 202-500

Intermediate Italian II

Italian Through Film

TR 11:10-12:25 pm

PETR 106

Instructor: Dr. Manuela Marchesini

office: 230 Academic Building E
office hours: TT 2:00-3:00 and by app.
email: mmarchesini@tamu.edu
phone: 845-2107

Course Description:
In the fourth semester course, you begin moving toward fluency in Italian by focusing on communication and through an exposure to a non-stereotypical, more complex and up-to-date cultural picture of modern Italy and Italians. This is achieved through the pedagogical use of very recent Italian films and other shorter material (from: Sentieri) that have been selected for their versatility and cultural significance and provide a systematic tool for reviewing, learning, and developing the Italian language at an intermediate level. In particular, this year’s course is based upon Marco Tullio Giordana’s celebrated long feature The Best of Youth (of 2003). It is a six and a half hour movie that optimistically ends with the line “tutto è veramente bello [everything is truly beautiful]”. It chronicles forty years in the life of the Carati family—liberal, middle-class Romans—as they navigate Italy’s turbulent ’60’s, ’70’s, and ’80’s up through the beginning of the new century. Missing the Best of Youth has been compared to missing a Dickens novel brought to film, or failing to appreciate the Italian equivalent of Marquez’s One Hundred Years of Solitude for Colombia, and Roshdie’s Midnight Children for India.

The course has its own Vista website on http://elearning.tamu.edu.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of the course students will be able to:
• express knowledge of Italian from both cultural and linguistic perspectives;
• communicate on a variety of topics comfortably in an Italian environment;
• utilize analytical tools necessary to compare and contrast Italian culture with the student’s own culture;
• demonstrate social, cultural and global competence.

Curriculum Objectives:
Critical Thinking: The course enhances critical thinking through engagement with a variety of inputs on multiple topics in the context of Italian culture. Group/class discussion, written work, and the production of skits are all exercises in which students demonstrate critical thinking skills.

Communication: The course enhances communication skills through participation in class discussions, the production of written essays, and through collaborative work with a team in the production of a skit expounding on one of the topics addressed in the course.

Social responsibility: The course enhances social responsibility by developing intercultural competence through mastery of a foreign language, which allows students to understand the
relationship between the practices and the perspectives of the culture they are studying.

*Personal responsibility:* The course enhances personal responsibility through engagement with contemporary social issues in Italy.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 201, placement exam, or instructor's consent.

**Texts required:**
- Cozzarelli, *Sentieri, Vista Higher Learning, 2011* + the premium access to the Sentieri’s *Supersite* at sentieri.vhlicentral.com
- Buonanno, Elda *La Meglio Gioventū* (*The Best of Youth*) Farinelli Edizioni –*the book* is on sale at http://www.edizionifarinelli.com/titles.php?title=EF+Film+Study%3A+La+meglio+giovent%26ugrave%3B&tid=84.
- *The Best of Youth course pack* you will find on elearning.
- One hard copy of a good dictionary English-Italian/Italian-English (for ex: the *Pocket Oxford Italian Dictionary*).

Please note: Students must have the book within 10 days since the beginning of classes or else they will be dropped from the course.

The DVDs of the film (3 streams of the same film: original with no subtitles; with Italian subtitles only; with only English subtitles) are available
a) on mediatrix https://mediatrix.tamu.edu/ (accessible through our elearning course page);
b) on reserve at Educational Media, in the Evans Annex 4th floor;
c) for purchase at the Farinelli publisher web site.

**Requirements:**
1. Attendance at regular classes is mandatory.
2. All compositions must be WORD or PDF files, 12 pt. Times New Roman, double-spaced.
3. It is the student's responsibility to check our course site at http://elearning.tamu.edu, at least 2 times per week each.
4. Homework, labs, and other types of assignments will not be accepted after their due dates, except in the case of university-excused absence.
5. The material for each day's lesson must be studied/screened before coming to class. You can find out what points will be covered on a given day by consulting the copy of your syllabus, either printed or on elearning or Howdy.

**Term grade:**
- Quizzes 15%
- Written Assignments/Homework 15%
- Midterm (oral presentation) 20%
- Final (final exam + final oral presentation) 20% + 20%
- Participation/attendance 10%

**Written Assignments/Homework:**

As per syllabus, plus what will be assigned daily and/or weekly (usually on Th. Afternoon) in accordance with the activities held/to be held in class that coming week. Homework will be posted on the calendar of our elearning page. All compositions will be checked for plagiarism.

All compositions assigned at home are to be turned in in class; a word processor must be used, then printed, point 12 and space 2. (Other shapes and forms will not be accepted.)
Orderly collect date, and keep all your homework (drafts and final versions + the assigned exercises not on the supersite, and all other written activities) in a binder that will be turned in for instructor's evaluation at the end of the semester.

Midterm Presentation:

Besides everyday in-class participation and conversation, students are required to prepare two oral presentations based on La Meglio Gioventù; one for the midterm grade and the second one for the final. These presentations have to be organized as a group skit (min. 3 / max. 4 students) and will be presented in class (min. 7' - max. 10' for the midterm oral presentation).

The instructor will discuss the format and confirm the topics with the students at least one week before the presentation date. For a sense of what is evaluated, see a sample of Oral Report file uploaded to the Vista page of our course at http://elearning.tamu.edu/.

Final Exam:

The final exam grade consists of two components:

1) the second oral in class presentation, same as above but of min. 10' - max. 15';
2) the final exam on the assigned day.

Participation:

Means attendance at regular classes; offering active contributions to class discussion, asking questions, and displaying a clear familiarity with the assigned material of the day. The student actively, consistently, and assertively tries to respond in Italian by preparing her/himself before class by memorizing or repetition in order to utilize basic and essential vocabulary for making basic statements and asking basic questions; and by consciously building and expanding upon that core foundation.

Attendance:

Attendance at regular classes is obligatory. Students should arrive for class on time and stay in class for its full duration. Tardy arrivals and early departures are disruptive and will be noted. University excused absences: please see http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm for current policy on university-excused absences. For illness- or injury-related absences of up to two days, student must provide a Texas A&M University Explanatory Statement of Absence from Class (available at http://attendance.tamu.edu). The student will initiate this process by completing the form either online or manually. The form must be printed and signed. Electronic copies will not be accepted. For absences of three days or more, the note must also contain the medical professional's confirmation that absence from class was necessary (see Rule 7.1.6.1 and 7.1.6.2). For each absence without a documented University excuse, your term grade will be lowered by 1/3 letter grade. No penalty will apply to homework submitted late due to a University-excused absence. Make-up exams and late submission of assignments (or a satisfactory alternative) is permitted for University-excused absences within 30 calendar days from the last day of the absence, in accordance with Student Rule 1.7.3.

Academic Integrity:

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do." You are expected to be aware of the Aggie Honor Code and the Honor Council Rules and Procedures, stated at <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>.

Disabilities:

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute providing comprehensive civil rights protections for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this
legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, B-118 Cain Hall (845-1637).

Grading scale:
A = 100 - 90 %  B = 89 - 80 %  C = 79 - 70 %  D = 69 - 60 %
### Course Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settimana</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>In classe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>No use of electronic devices in class.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A casa**

*(Must be done by that day.)*

Collect, date, and keep all your homework/language activities and notes *(drafts and final versions + the assigned exercises not on the supersite, and all other written activities)* in a binder. You will turn it in to your instructor for evaluation at the end of the semester.

Students must bring book/s and binder to each class.

**Guarda:** watch (on mediamatrix or on DVD) the same indicated film sequence for 3 times, using the 3 different streams:
- One with English subtitles.
- One with Italian subtitles,
- And one without subtitles.

**Leggi:** gain a full comprehension of the assigned short passage.

**How?**
1. Underline the word/expression you do not understand;
2. Look it up on a hard copy Italian/English or Italian/Italian dictionary;
3. Write down the expression in question, and only that one. Do not write down the full English translation of the sentence. It is for your personal use, keep it to the minimum—for you (not for me) to understand what it means.

The purpose of the exercise is for you to acquire the Italian vocabulary to discuss the topic orally or in writing.

**Leggi/Scrivi:** We will use the Best of Youth coursepack you will find on elearning.

Student will be asked to answer to the assigned questions, orally and/or in writing, for the class of that day. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check elearning and the supersite to find out the week assignments.

Please note: when your answers are in writing, they must be typed with a word processor (point 2, space 2 or 3) and they must be turned to instructor in class, on the assigned day.

Write in full sentences: subject, verb and modifiers.

On occasion students will be asked, following appropriate indications, to edit their written homework, and turn the final version in again along with the first draft.

**Esercizi & Grammatica:** we will use Sentieri and its Supersite for studying and reviewing/practicing grammar points.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan. 15</th>
<th>Presentazione del corso</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Jan. 17 | **Attività orale:**  
  *Grammatica:* ripasso | **Guarda** la prima sequenza (3+)  
  *Leggi/Scrivi:* Trama p. 9  
  Rispondi oralmente e/o per iscritto alle domande assegnate dal BoY coursepack od altro (check elearning/supersite)  
  *Esercizi e grammatica:* 3 p. 11 (check elearning/supersite) |   |
| Jan. 22 | **Prima e seconda sequenza**  
  *Attività orale:*  
  *Grammatica:* capitolo 12 di Sentieri | **Guarda** la prima e la seconda sequenza  
  *Leggi/Scrivi:* prima sequenza p. 9-10 + seconda sequenza p. 17  
  Rispondi oralmente e/o per iscritto alle domande assegnate dal BoY coursepack od altro (check elearning/supersite)  
  *Esercizi e grammatica:* tba (check elearning/supersite) |   |
| Jan. 24 | **Seconda sequenza**  
  *Attività orale:*  
  *Grammatica:* capitolo 12 di Sentieri | **Guarda** la seconda sequenza  
  *Leggi/Scrivi:* seconda sequenza p. 17  
  Rispondi per iscritto alle domande assegnate dal BoY coursepack od altro (check elearning/supersite)  
  *Esercizi e grammatica:* tba (check elearning/supersite) |   |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sequence</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Jan. 29 | Terza sequenza 25 | **Guarda** la terza sequenza  
Leggi/Scrivi: terza sequenza p. 25  
Rispondi oralmente alle domande assegnate dal BoY coursepack od altro (check elearning/ supersite)  
Esercizi e grammatica: tba (check elearning/ supersite) |
| Jan. 31 | Quarta Sequenza 31  
**Grammatica:** capitolo 12 di Sentieri | **Guarda:** la quarta sequenza  
Leggi/Scrivi: quarta sequenza p. 31  
Rispondi oralmente alle domande assegnate dal BoY coursepack od altro (check elearning/ supersite)  
Esercizi e grammatica: tba (check elearning/ supersite) |
|         | AND SO ON  
**Grammatica:** Ripasso coniugazioni semplici | **HOMEWORK** for the week will be assigned on the Elearning’s Calendar (usually on Th. afternoon) in accordance with the activities to be held in class the following week. |
<p>| Feb. 5  | Quinta sequenza 3  | <strong>HOMEWORK</strong> for the week will be assigned on the Elearning’s Calendar (usually on Th. afternoon) in accordance with the activities to be held in class the following week. |
| Feb. 7  | Sesta sequenza 47  |                                                                      |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td>Settima sequenza 53</td>
<td><em>TODAY CONFIRM WITH ME YOUR GROUP COMPOSITION AND THE TOPIC OF YOUR MIDTERM PRESENTATION:</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Examples:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>Ottava sequenza 59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 19</td>
<td>QUIZ #1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td>MIDTERM ORALS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>MIDTERM ORALS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 28</td>
<td>MIDTERM ORALS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Nona sequenza 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Decima sequenza 71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Undicesima sequenza 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Grammatica:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dodicesima sequenza 85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Tredicesima sequenza 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Quattordicesima sequenza 99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2</td>
<td>Stint 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 4</td>
<td>Quiz #2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 9</td>
<td>Diciottesima sequenza 131</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 11</td>
<td>BY TODAY CONFIRM WITH ME YOUR GROUP COMPOSITION AND THE TOPIC OF YOUR FINAL PRESENTATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>Ripasso</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 18</td>
<td>Presentazioni ORALI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 23</td>
<td>Presentazioni ORALI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 25</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF CLASS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3rd</td>
<td>Final Exam –Location TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 3, Friday 3-5 p.m. (TR 11:10 a.m.-12:25 p.m.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>