



University of Oklahoma
Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics
ITAL 4513: Topics in Medieval & Renaissance Literature
Fall 2016

Benvenuti!

We are happy that you have decided to further your Italian studies! This syllabus contains valuable information about the class that you have chosen. Please take the time to read it carefully. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your professor.

Course: ITAL 4513	Section: 001
Meeting Days & Time: TR 10:30 – 11:45	Location: KH 233
Instructor: Dr. Daniela Busciglio	Office: Kaufman 116
Email: busciglio@ou.edu	Office Hours: TR 12:00 - 1:00 & by appt.

Required Texts: Boccaccio. *Il Decameron*. Find an edition online or for purchase (Amazon, etc) edited by Branca or Quondam. Library owns various copies. (PDF on Canvas)

Boccaccio. *Elegia di Madonna Fiammetta*. (PDF on Canvas)

Boccaccio. *Il Corbaccio*. (PDF on Canvas)

Boccaccio. *On Famous Women* (De mulieribus claris).

Dictionary: EN-IT / IT-EN Dictionary: www.wordreference.com

Thesauri: <http://sapere.virgilio.it/parole/sinonimi-e-contrari>
http://dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario_sinonimi_contrari
<http://www.treccani.it/sinonimi>

Course Objectives & Description

Italian 4513 is conducted entirely in Italian. You are expected to speak only Italian during class. Use of English will count severely against your participation grade. At the end of this course, you will be able to describe in detail the major works of Giovanni Boccaccio, detail the events that led to the founding of Western Humanism and Renaissance Humanism, Boccaccio's impact on the founding of the Italian Renaissance through close readings and textual and linguistic analyses of select primary texts.

Monitoring Your Grade

It is up to students to monitor their own grades. If you have any questions about how to do this through Canvas, ask your instructor. As suggested, after taking one of the chapter tests, students should examine their grades for online pre-class work and post-class work, exams, pop quizzes, as well as their attendance records. Concerns or queries about a grade should be made immediately. Your instructor will not entertain queries or petitions for missed work at the end of the semester unless they are related to work immediately prior to the end of the semester. Your instructor will also not entertain petitions for excused absences for the attendance grade. Please be mindful of your own progress in class.

Emailing Your Instructor

Please use your OU email account when emailing your instructor. If you use a personal email account (e.g., gmail, yahoo, etc), your message may end up in your instructor's junk mail folder or s/he will not know whether the message is junk mail, and therefore may not respond. OU email is considered by the university to be official communication, and you should therefore address your instructor appropriately (e.g., Dear Ms., Mr., Dr., etc.), and use a respectful tone. Instructors may not respond to emails that do not address them directly.

Attendance Policy

Course attendance is mandatory and will be recorded every day. You are allowed a maximum of 3 absences over the course of the semester. Each absence beyond these first 3 will be counted as 2 points deducted from your final grade. If you accrue more than 6 absences, you will be asked to withdraw from the course or a grade of F will be assigned for the course. Please note that attendance and participation grade does not simply depend on regular attendance but active daily participation. If you do miss class it is your responsibility to check Canvas and contact a classmate for missed materials and assignments. Be aware that missing class due to illness still counts as an absence, even with a doctor's note. In the case of a documented extenuating circumstance that may cause you to exceed your allotted number of absences, please contact your instructor immediately. Should you have personal emergency circumstances that require extended or frequent absences, it may be appropriate in some cases to drop that course and consider re-enrolling in a future semester. Athletes are expected to provide documentation of sports-related activities that may conflict with class to their instructor within the first two weeks of the semester. Please consult with your academic advisor concerning enrollment options. If you must miss class one day, it is your responsibility to find out from a classmate what exactly you missed, obtain any notes or updates.

Please be on time to avoid disrupting your classmates. Three late arrivals will count as one unexcused absence.

Religious Observances

It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Please inform your instructor as early as possible (preferably at the beginning of the semester) of any religious holidays you anticipate observing during the semester that might conflict with

class requirements. Prior to being absent for religious observances, please remind your instructor in advance, and please take the initiative in making appropriate arrangements for making up class work and/or rescheduling exams if applicable.

Disability Statement

If you have a disability that may prevent the full demonstration of your abilities in this course, please contact me personally as soon as possible so I can provide an appropriate contact to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. Please contact the Disability Resource Center, Goddard Health Center, Room 166, (405) 325-3852 to make a formal request for accommodation. email drc@ou.edu. For further information, please visit:

<http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html>.

Statement of Inclusivity

Pivotal to OU's educational mission is the need to embrace and value the diversity of the OU community. Acknowledging the uniqueness of each individual, in this course and on campus we seek to cultivate an environment that encourages freedom of expression. Because the University is a community where inquiry is nurtured and theories are tested, every individual has the right to feel safe to express ideas that differ from those held by other members of the community. However, all persons who aspire to be part of our campus community must accept the responsibility to demonstrate civility and respect for the dignity of others. Recognizing that the proper balance between freedom of expression and respect for others is not always apparent or easy to achieve, we must continually challenge ourselves and each other in an atmosphere of mutual concern, good will and respect. Therefore, expressions or actions that disparage an individual's or group's ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, age or disability are contrary to the mission of OU.

Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, or stalking, the University offers a variety of resources. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at (405) 325-2215 (8am to 5pm, M-F) or smo@ou.edu. Incidents can also be reported confidentially to OU Advocates at (405) 615-0013 (phones are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Please be advised that an instructor is required to report instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination to the Sexual Misconduct Office. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to: Bobby J. Mason, University Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX Coordinator at (405) 325-3546 or bjm@ou.edu. For more information, please visit <http://www.ou.edu/eoo.html>.

Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact your instructor or the Disability Resource Center at (405) 325-3852 as soon as possible. Please visit <http://www.ou.edu/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html> for answers to commonly asked questions.

Auditors

Auditors are expected to do the same work as required of other students; no grades assigned but all assignments must be completed on time and active, and prepared participation is expected.

Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement or fails to give appropriate credit to authorship. All students in attendance are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Oklahoma expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum requires to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct. Cheating is strictly prohibited at the University of Oklahoma, because it devalues the degree you are working hard to get. As a member of the OU community it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the rules. For specific definitions on what constitutes cheating, review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html.

Any instance of academic misconduct will be handled in accordance with the University policy and procedures. Please refer to the website maintained by the OU Integrity Council and Office of Academic Integrity Programs at <http://integrity.ou.edu/index.html>.

Tutors are best used as guides. In order to improve your Italian skills, you must be able to identify and learn from your own mistakes and this is impossible if someone else is making the corrections.

What kind of help is acceptable?

- ✓ Point out errors and help you understand them, but allow you to correct them.
- ✓ Explanation of troublesome concepts or material
- ✓ Aid in identifying problem areas and resolving them
- ✓ Help with exam preparation

What kind of help is unacceptable?

- ✗ Correcting or doing your written assignments
- ✗ Help to cut corners or producing last-minute work

Examples of academic misconduct in this class include but are not limited to:

- Using unauthorized material (cheat sheets, answer keys, etc.) on examinations and other assignments
- Improper collaboration (for example working with a partner to divide the work in half and copying each other's half)
- Submitting the same assignment for different classes
- Having someone else do or write your assignments for you

- Submitting plagiarized work (i.e., cutting and pasting from another paper or the internet without proper citation or paraphrasing from the web or other sources without crediting the source or using another person's words, ideas, or research and presenting it as one's own)
- Fabricating, forging, or altering documents or lying in order to obtain academic advantage
- Using an electronic translator such as Google Translate for full sentences and/or paragraphs.

For full descriptions, please refer to the academic integrity website. When in doubt about whether something constitutes academic misconduct, please consult with your instructor who can help clarify any gray areas.

Grade Breakdown:

Partecipazione (Preparation and Class Interventions):	20%
Weekly Reading Response Discussion Forum Posts (12 total)	20%
2 Short essays (5 pages each)	20%
<i>Baccano</i> Public Lecture	20%
Progetto finale	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Participation 20%

Participation in class is graded on a weekly basis and involves a number of variables, including but not limited to:

- Using Italian at all times in the classroom (even for clarifying/asking a grammar question!)
- Your willingness to participate actively in all class activities
- Your cooperation during group and pair work
- Your respect and attitude toward the class and your peers
- Your daily preparation for each class.
- Using technology for class purposes and/or when asked to. If you need to use your cell phone for another purpose, please briefly exit the classroom.

Participation involves taking active part in the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational activities in Italian.

- “Active” means that you must make an effort to concentrate on getting the gist of what's being said in class, focus on the activities, speak, ask questions, volunteer, take notes when important points are explained, write and read in Italian.
- “Interpersonal activities” require that you share ideas in Italian with your classmates and instructor both orally and in writing on the topics that are being discussed, and work on your skills on how to ask for clarifications or explanations about those topics.
- “Interpretive activities” require that you listen to oral speech and make an effort to understand the main idea by using interpretive strategies (e.g., by identifying known words and infer logical connections between them).

- “Presentational activities” require that you present your ideas and opinions in Italian about the topics that are being discussed.

Students are evaluated for their participation grade according to contributions to class activities, interaction with other students, and evidence of preparation of materials outside of class time. Students are expected to study the assigned material before class. Participation grade is based on the following criteria:

5: Student volunteers answers at every class meeting in Italian and participates very actively. Student prepares well for each meeting, uses recently introduced material correctly and creatively, and attends class regularly.

4: Student may volunteer answers regularly in Italian and may participate well in classroom activities. Student prepares well and attempts to use new material but may do so with inconsistent results.

3: Student may answer appropriately in Italian when called on, participates, attends class regularly and/or prepares adequately for class meetings but does not assimilate class material very well.

2: Student rarely volunteers or answers questions, does not prepare for class adequately and/or participates minimally and/or in English.

1: Student cannot respond to questions in English or Italian, is unprepared for class, attends sporadically and/or demonstrates no interest in class activities.

Weekly Reading Response Discussion Forum Posts (12 total) 20%

Students are expected to complete assigned readings each week and write a weekly response paper of one page (250 words) in Italian, posted in the Canvas Discussion Forum every Friday and in the Canvas Dropbox by 11:59pm. You must also post two comments (a healthy paragraph each) to another student’s post by Sunday 11.59pm. Your response paper will be returned that Tuesday via Canvas Dropbox with my feedback. They will be graded on both content and grammar based on a detailed rubric associated with this assignment.

2 Short essays (5 pages each) 20%

There will be two short essays, which will be on topics and prompts/questions determined by the professor based on relevant course materials. The use of online translators for written assignments is strictly forbidden.

Public Lecture 20%

Each student must prepare one 25-minute public lecture in Italian introducing, reading an excerpt of, and providing a critical commentary on one of Boccaccio’s works we are reading. This will take place in the form of a *Baccano* event in October/November. The lecturer will also provide a handout for other students to follow along with pertinent information (some of this information may be in English and Italian.) The lecture will be

carefully planned and mapped out with Dr. Busciglio as your guide ahead of time to ensure your success. The other students in this course will be expected to ask at least two questions at the end of the lecture.

Progetto finale 20%

The last two weeks of class will be dedicated to an author of your choosing who was influenced by or who influenced Boccaccio. This project can take any format but it must be a public product—that is to say, it must be made available online (it can be a video, a website, a wiki, a podcast, etc) that examine the impact of Boccaccio’s work or that of his predecessors on literary movements, schools, styles, linguistic analyses, interpretations, etc. The project should also include some type of linguistic or textual analysis / interpretation / comparison of Medieval and Renaissance Italian with modern day Standard Italian. It will be due during Finals Week and we will meet to celebrate your project culmination. Get creative and be original! This project will be carefully planned and mapped out with Dr. Busciglio as your Virgilio again to ensure your success.

Programma di lavoro

The course calendar may be subject to changes in the event of class cancellations due to inclement weather, instructor illness, etc.

All writing assignments must be in Times New Roman font size 12 double-spaced and must follow this format: FirstNameSettimanaX.doc(x). An automatic deduction of 3 points will occur if format not followed.

Settimana e date	Programma di studio
SETTIMANA 1 23 – 25 agosto	Introduzione al corso e a Giovanni Boccaccio <i>Elegia di Madonna Fiametta</i> – Prologo, capitolo 1
SETTIMANA 2 30 agosto – 1 sett	<i>Elegia</i> , cap. 2-4 Prologo, cap. 5-6
SETTIMANA 3 6 – 8 settembre	<i>Elegia</i> , cap. 7-9 <i>Decamerone</i> , Proemio, Introduzione alla Prima Giornata
SETTIMANA 4 13 – 15 settembre	<i>Decamerone</i> , I Giornata
SETTIMANA 5 20 – 22 settembre	<i>Decamerone</i> , II Giornata <i>Decamerone</i> , III Giornata
SETTIMANA 6 27 – 29 settembre	<i>Decamerone</i> , IV Giornata <i>Decamerone</i> , V Giornata
SETTIMANA 7 4 – 6 ottobre	<i>Decamerone</i> , VI Giornata <i>Decamerone</i> , VII Giornata
SETTIMANA 8 11 – 13 ottobre	<i>Decamerone</i> , VIII Giornata <i>Decamerone</i> , IX Giornata
SETTIMANA 9 18 – 20 ottobre	<i>Decamerone</i> , X Giornata Saggio 1 da consegnare
SETTIMANA 10 25 – 27 ottobre	<i>Corbaccio</i> , pp. 3-48 <i>Corbaccio</i> pp. 48-95

SETTIMANA 11 1 – 3 novembre	Petrarch, Letter to Bocaccio and Translation of Decameron, X, 10 Chaucer, <i>The Clerk's Tale</i>
SETTIMANA 12 8 – 10 novembre	<i>De Mulieribus Claris (On Famous Women)</i>
SETTIMANA 13 15 – 17 novembre	<i>De Mulieribus Claris (On Famous Women)</i>
SETTIMANA 14 22 novembre	Il Decamerone di Pier Paolo Pasolini (Film)
SETTIMANA 15 29 nov – 1 dicembre	Consegnare prospetto (~ 2 pagine) di progetto finale Lavoro su progetti in classe
SETTIMANA 16 6 – 8 dicembre	Lavoro su progetti in classe
Finals Week	Incontro per presentazioni dei progetti finali Saggio 2 da consegnare