



Department of Italian Language and Culture

ITA204 Course In Italian

Italian Cultural Studies

General Course Description

The Italian Culture Course consists of 32 hours of contact time divided in two sections: *Sienna in Italian History* and *Cinema Italiano*. The combined sections offers perspective on modern Italian culture on both a local and national scale. At the end of the program, students receive a final grade on their transcript that is comprehensive of coursework completed in all two sections.



Section 1

Exploring Siena [4-Week Intensive Course]

Instructor: Roberto Fineschi

Course Description

The class is an introduction to Siena both in the past and the present. Going into origins and traditions of the medieval town, we will understand its contemporary life, its mentality and its famous public celebration: il palio. In the first part of the class, we will outline the main features of this reality. In the second part we will "see" what we learned by visiting the places where the people of Siena produced, played, prayed and lived.

Prerequisites

Italian Language 101/102

Course Hours

The course meets twice a week for a total of 4 hours a week.

Student Learning Expectations

A deeper comprehension of the city of Siena and of its history, together with a global knowledge of medieval Italian society.

Course Outline

Week by Week Description:

Week I In giro: Piazza del campo and its surroundings

In class: general overview on medieval history.

Week II In class: Siena between myth and history.

In giro: the Duomo and its surroundings

Week III In class: Il Palio and Siennese plays I

In giro: San Francesco and Provenzano

Week IV In class: Il Palio and Siennese plays II

In giro: San Domenico and St. Catherine's house

In giro: Pantaneto and Santa Maria dei Servi

Assignments:

Weekly readings on the topic of the week. More material will be handed out lecture



by lecture.

Textbook and required materials:

Torriti, P. "Tutta Siena Contrada per Contrada", Firenze, Bonechi, 2000

Waley, D. "Sienna & the Siennese in the Thirteenth Century", University Press, Cambridge 1991

Recommended optional materials/references:

Header, H. "Italy. A Short History", University Press, Cambridge 1991

Excursions

Each week the "in giro" lesson is held on site in an artistically and historically relevant area of the city.



Section 2

Course in Italian: Italian Cinema

Instructor: Chiara Ricchi

Course Description

The subject of this course is Italian Cinema. Guided screenings and discussions about Italian films will give insights into recent trends and issues in contemporary Italian society. Films are screened in the original Italian to further solidify student oral comprehension.

Prerequisites

Italian Language 101/102

Course Hours

Semester course meets once a week for a total of 3.5 hours a week.

Student Learning Expectations

This course will allow the students to: discover important directors in Italian cinema; examine important themes in post-war Italy, improve Italian language skills.

Course Outline

Week by Week Description:

Week I Film screening and discussion: *Io non ho paura*; Salvatores (2003).

Film screening and discussion: *Le mine vaganti*; Ozpetek (2010).

Week II Film screening and discussion: *Il vitelloni* ; Fellini (1953).

Film screening and discussion: *Lezioni di cioccolato*; Cupellini (2007)

Week III Film screening and discussion: *My name is Tanino*; Virzi (2003)

Film screening and discussion: *Manuale d'amore*; Veronesi (2005).



Assignments:

The students will be required to complete a worksheet regarding each film and this assignment will guide group discussions.

Excursions

N/A



Grading System

The final grade for Italian Culture Studies is a combination of the grades of the three sections:

35% Siena in Italian History (Roberto Fineschi)

35% Italian Cinema (Chiara Ricchi)

30% Cumulative Attendance & Participation

Grading scale

98-100 A+ 88-89,99 B+ 78-79,99 C+ 68-69,99 D+

93-97,99 A 83-87,99 B 73-77,99 C 63-67,99 D

90-92,99 A- 80-82,99 B- 70-72,99 C- 60-62,99 D- <59,99 F

Course Policy

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all lectures and excursions and actively participate in classroom discussions. Only one absence per course is allowed during the 15 weeks of the program. All other absences are considered unexcused. Each unexcused absence will incur an academic penalty of 10% off the overall grade of the course missed. A student having more than 3 unexcused absences will earn an "F" in their course work and if they accumulate such absences in more than one course, will be dismissed from the program.

Retests/makeup tests

Students may take the exam on a different date only for justified reasons such as health problems. The course does not allow for retest.