Spring 2019 - Other Worlds. Travel Literature in Italy
ITAL-UA 9283
Wednesdays, 10:30-1:15 pm
Classroom Location TBA

Class Description:

This course, taught in English, will focus on the representation of travel experience in Modern Italian Literature and its related media, especially 20th Century Cinema, Modernist and Futurist Art, underground comics, and the way they intersect with each other. Its aim is to offer the student a new pattern in the succession of tendencies, movements and mass cultures, with a broader perspective, spanning from the 19th Century Post-Unification Italian culture and literature (Manzoni) to the 1980s “cult” writers and cartoonists and literary groups from the 1990s and 2000s (Tondelli, Ammanniti, Pazienza). With this pattern the student will be introduced to the dynamics of journey in the Italian culture and literature: not only a spatial journey abroad (in America with Calvino, The Orient with Tabucchi, Africa with Pasolini and Celati) or inland (especially the South of Carlo Levi), but also intellectually, politically and spiritually speaking: a path between the Wars (with Malaparte and Levi), the economic Boom, the Generation of ‘68 and ‘77, a psychedelic trip in New Age trends, and the so-called Pulp Generation or Young Cannibals. To foster the student’s feedback one Site-visit will be proposed (at the Fondazione Casamonti in Florence) and a special Field Trip will be scheduled in Milan, to visit the new “Book Pride” Book Fair and interview a contemporary Italian writer and/or translator and/or editor at Verso Bookshop.

With these topics and authors, the student will be engaged in a different history of Italian literature and culture, using also her or his knowledge in the Florentine context.

The student will be required to creatively present in class a topic, previously discussed and related to the themes of our program, throughout the semester, and to write 2 written assignments/reaction papers.

Instructor Details:

Name: Alessandro Raveggi
NYUGlobalHome Email Address: alessandro.raveggi@nyu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:00-10:30 AM, and after class
Villa Ulivi Office Location: TBA
Villa Ulivi Phone Number: +39 055 5007 300
Desired Outcomes:

On completion of this course, students should:

- Have improved their ability to think critically, engage in complex reasoning and express their thoughts clearly through their written work
- Have improved their understanding of the methodologies of Modern Italian Literature and Culture in its relationship with cinema, comics and the arts
- Have mastered a basic understanding of how to research questions in Modern Italian Literature
- Recognize works by the principal protagonists of the Modern Italian Literature, Cinema and the Arts and understand why they are significant for the History of Italian Culture

Assessment Components

- Attendance and Participation: 10%
- Written Assignments*: 20%
- Midterm Exam (Short answers in class + Take Home Part): 25%
- Oral Presentations in class: 10%
- Final Paper (at least 6 pages): 25%
- Final Exam in class: 10%

- Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

*Written Assignments will be reaction papers to Site Visits and Field Trips

Assessment Expectations

- **Grade A:** The student’s work demonstrates an understanding of the subject that goes beyond assigned course readings. The student writes essays/exam questions that are an original synthesis of source materials, demonstrating the ability to evaluate source material critically. Written arguments are clear, well-organized and well-presented; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student has distinguished himself/herself throughout the course of the semester for his/her contributions to class discussion.

- **Grade B:** The student’s work shows a clear understanding of assigned readings and materials covered in class. The student writes clear, well-organized and well-presented essays/exam questions; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student is prepared in class and asks relevant questions.

- **Grade C:** The student’s work shows a basic understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. However, written and/or oral work is deficient in one or more of the following areas: clarity, organization or content. The student’s work is generally in need of improvement.
- **Grade D:** The student’s work shows occasional understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work is deficient in one of more of the follow areas: clarity, organization or content. The student does not participate in class discussion and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

- **Grade F:** The student’s work does not demonstrate understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work are either insufficient or are not submitted. The student appears unprepared in class and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

**Grading Guidelines**

- A = 94-100
- A minus = 90-93
- B plus = 87-89
- B = 84-86
- B minus = 80-83
- C plus = 77-79
- C = 74-76
- C minus = 70-73
- D plus = 67-69
- D = 65-66
- F = below 65

**Grading Policy:**
Please refer to Assessment Expectations and the policy on late submission of work.

**Academic Accommodations:**
Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see the Moses Center for further information.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.
Attendance Policy:
Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

For courses that meet once a week, one unexcused absence will be penalized by a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade. For courses that meet two or more times a week, the same penalty will apply to the number of class times over a single week.

Excused Absences:
In case of absence, regardless of the reason, the student is responsible for completing missed assignments, getting notes and making up missed work in a timely manner based upon a schedule that is mutually agreed upon between the faculty member and the student. The only excused absences are those approved by the Office of Academic Support; they are as follows:

Absence Due to Illness
- If you are sick, please see a doctor. Contact the Office of Student Life for assistance.
- For absences that last for two or more consecutive days, a doctor's certificate, "certificato medico" is required. The doctor will indicate in writing the number of days of bed rest required. Please note these certificates can only be obtained on the day you see the doctor and cannot be written for you afterwards.
- Absences can ONLY be excused if they are reported WITHIN 48 HRS of your return to class via the online NYU Florence Absence Form
- OAS will not accept a student email or telephone call regarding an absence due to illness
- OAS will only notify faculty of absences REPORTED on the ABSENCE FORM
- The Office of Student Life, when assisting you in cases of severe or extended illness, will coordinate with the Office of Academic Support to properly record your absences

Due to Religious Observance
- Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday
- Information regarding absences due to religious observance must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online NYU Florence Absence Form
- Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.
Due to a class conflict with a program sponsored lecture, event, or activity

- All students are entitled to miss one class period without any penalty to their grade in order to attend a lecture, event or activity that is sponsored by La Pietra Dialogues, Acton Miscellany or the Graduate Lecture series.
- Information regarding absences due to a class conflict must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online NYU Florence Absence Form
- Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.

Students with questions or needing clarification about this policy are instructed to contact a member of the Office of Academic Support located in Villa Ulivi or to email florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu

Late Submission of Work

- All course work must be submitted on time, in class on the date specified on the syllabus.
- To request an extension on a deadline for an assignment, students must speak to the professor one week prior to the due date
- To receive an incomplete for a course at the end of the semester, two weeks before final exams, both the student and the faculty member must meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs to review the request and if granted, they must both sign an Incomplete Contract detailing the terms for completing missing coursework.

Plagiarism Policy

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM:
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

In the event of suspected or confirmed cases of plagiarism, the faculty member will consult first with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs as definitions and procedures vary from school to school.

Writing Center:
The Writing Center, located in Villa Ulivi, offers you feedback on any type of writing, at any stage in planning or drafting; very rough drafts are welcome. Sign up for a consultation at the Writing Center’s website and submit your working draft or ideas at least six hours in advance to NYU Florence Writing Center. You can drop in for a consultation M-Th, but remember that appointments are given priority. Please also note that the Writing Center does not correct or “fix” your writing but prompts you to think and work. The aim is to create stronger writers in the long term, not necessarily perfect papers in the short term.
Required Text(s):

- Course Reader (Copyright free - available on NYU Classes)
- For MIDTERM EXAM, the student must read these 2 books
- For the FINAL RESEARCH PAPER, the student chooses to work on a research project starting from 1 of these 3 books:

Copies of each textbook are available for consultation and short term loans in the Villa Ulivi Library. Extra copies of some textbooks are also available for semester long loans. More information on Books and Course Materials.

Supplemental Texts(s):


“The Cambridge Companion to Modern Italian Culture”, eds. Z. Baranski; R. West, Cambridge UP, 2001; (CCMIC)


More online resources at:

Modern Italy
Italian Studies
Florence
Internet Research Guidelines:
The careful use of internet resources is encouraged and a list of recommended websites will be given. Failure to cite internet and other non-traditional media sources in your written work constitutes plagiarism.

Additional Required Equipment:
N/A

Class Assignments and Topics:

Session 1 - February 6
INTRODUCTION / INDEPENDENCE

- The Independence Uprising of Italy
- Introduction to the course
- Syllabus Review & Presentations by the students
- Screening and discussion (excerpts): L. Visconti, “The Leopard”

Session 2- February 13
UNIFICATION / MISEDUCATION

- Pinocchio, Collodi and Manzoni
- Collodi and the Myth of Youth
- Alessandro Manzoni’s The Betrothed

Required readings from the Course Reader, excerpts from:

- A. Manzoni, “The Betrothed”
- C. Collodi, “The Adventures of Pinocchio”

Screening and discussion (excerpts):

- L. Comencini, “Le avventure di Pinocchio” (1948)

Session 3 - February 20
GOING SOUTHWARD

Tuscan and Italian “Verismo”

Giovanni Verga: “The House by the Medlar Tree”

Federigo Tozzi’s short story “The Tavern”
Required readings from the Course Reader, excerpts from
G. Verga, “The Cavalleria Rusticana and other stories”
G. Verga, “The House by the Medlar Tree”
F. Tozzi’s short story “The Tavern”

Screening and discussion:
L. Visconti, “La terra trema” (1948)

PRESENTATION IN CLASS by the students #1: The South / The Countryside in my culture / literature / cinema / visual arts.

Session 4 - February 27
ASSAULT / SITE VISIT TO CAFFÈ GIUBBE ROSSE AND FONDAZIONE CASAMONTI
CLASS MEET AT CAFFE’ GIUBBE ROSSE Piazza della Repubblica

Italian and Florentine Futurism

Futurism and Colonialism in literature and other media. Marinetti’s manifesto
Modernists in Florence, with arts and cinema references.

Required readings from the Course Reader

excerpts from
F. T. Marinetti, “The Futurist Manifesto”
Poems by Papini, Palazzeschi, Soffici, Campana

Session 5 - March 6
NEOREALISM IN LITERATURE AND CINEMA

Pavese, Rossellini and Levi

Carlo Levi and the Neorealist Italian cinema

Cesare Pavese and the Fascination for America.

Required reading (full books)

C. Levi, “Christ Stopped at Eboli”
C. Pavese, “The Moon and the Bonfires”
Screening and discussion of excerpts from
F. Rosi, “Christ Stopped at Eboli” (1979)
R. Rossellini, “Paisà” (1946)

1st Written Assignment due on MUSEUM VISIT

PRESENTATION IN CLASS by the students #2: The War Experience in my culture / literature / cinema / visual arts

**Session 6 - March 13**
REVIEW for Midterm Exam + BATTLEFIELD / HOLOCAUST

Curzio Malaparte and Primo Levi

Curzio Malaparte and his War experience in “Kaputt”

Americans in Naples: “The Skin.”

The Holocaust Tragedy for an Italian Survivor: Primo Levi’s “If this is a man”

Required readings from the Course Reader, excerpts from:

C. Malaparte, “Kaputt”

C. Malaparte, “The Skin”

P. Levi, “If This is a Man”

Screening and discussion of excerpts from
F. Rosi, “The Truce” (1997)

**Session 7- March 20**
MIDTERM EXAM

(Take home Part due + Short answers in class)

Final Paper Topic DUE (Discussion in class)

**SPRING BREAK, March 25-31**
Session 8 - April 3  
GENDER UTOPIAS

Women’s Islands and Gender Utopias.

Anna Maria Ortese and Elsa Morante

- “The Iguana” by Anna Maria Ortese
- “Arturo’s Island” by Elsa Morante

Required readings from the Course Reader, excerpts from:

- M. Ortese, “The Iguana”
- E. Morante, “Arturo’s Island”

PRESENTATION IN CLASS by the students #3: Gender Equality and Diversity in my culture / literature / cinema / visual arts

Session 9 - April 10  
POSTMODERN TOURS

Calvino, Volponi and the Italian Postmodernity

- Italo Calvino’s “Invisible Cities”
- Paolo Volponi and the Italian Televised Post-Culture

Required readings from the Course Reader, excerpts from:

- P. Volponi, “Last Act in Urbino”
- Calvino, “Invisible Cities”

PRESENTATION IN CLASS by the students #4: Postmodernism and TV in my culture / literature / cinema / visual arts

- 2nd Written Assignment due (on Milan’s Field Trip)

Session 10 - April 17  
LITERARY CINEMA

Fellini and Pasolini - With screening (excerpts) and debate on Fellini’s movie “8½”

Required readings from the Course Reader

excerpts from

- P. P. Pasolini, “Petrolio”
Screening and discussion:

- F. Fellini, “8½” (1963)

**Session 11 - April 24**

**NEW EXOTICISM**

Contemporary Italian writers in India and Africa

- “Indian Nocturne” and Antonio Tabucchi.
- Gianni Celati’s “Adventures in Africa”

Required readings from the Course Reader, excerpts from:

- P. P. Pasolini, “The Scent of India”
- G. Celati, “Adventures in Africa”
- Tabucchi, short story “Voices borne by something, Impossible to say what”

Screening and discussion on excerpts from


**PRESENTATION IN CLASS by the students #5: EXOTICISM in my culture / literature / cinema / visual arts**

**Session 12 - May 8**

**CONTEMPORARY JOURNEYS**

Last Tendencies in Comics and Literature, from the 1980s to contemporary times

- Andrea Pazienza and the Underground Movements of Comics and Video art
- Antonio Moresco, “Distant Light”
- Carlo Coccioli

Required readings from the Course Reader, excerpts from

- Antonio Moresco, “Distant Light”
- Carlo Coccioli, “The Eye and The Heart”

**PRESENTATION IN CLASS by the students #6: Comics and Underground Alt-Culture in my culture / literature / cinema / visual arts**

**Session 13 – FRIDAY May 10 (Make Up class for MAY 1)**
FINAL REVIEW

FINAL PAPER DRAFT DUE

Encounter with Vanni Santoni, a contemporary Florentine writer, in collaboration with the magazine The FLR. The Florentine Literary Review (TBC)

Session 14 – May 15

Final Research Paper due + FINAL EXAM (short answers in class)

Session 15 – Friday March 15 – FIELD TRIP

FIELD TRIP: Field-trip to Milan and BOOK PRIDE Book Fair

Encountering Contemporary Italian Writers and Translators at the Verso bookshop, then visiting an Independent Book Fair: Book Pride 2019.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM (TBC):

10:30 - VERSO BOOKSHOP - Corso di Porta Ticinese, 40 MILAN - Coffee meeting and interview with contemporary Italian writer and translator

12:00 - LUNCH Break

14:00 – BOOK PRIDE Book Fair - Site Visit @ Book Pride - Encounters with Italian publishers and editors (brief interviews)

16:00 – BOOK PRIDE Tour ends

Classroom Etiquette

- Eating is not permitted in the classrooms. Bottled water is permitted.
- Cell phones should be turned off during class time.
- The use of personal laptops and other electronic handheld devices are prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise specified by the professor.
- We recycle! So keep it green! Please dispose of trash in the clearly marked recycle bins located throughout the on campus buildings
Required Co-curricular Activities
LPD Dialogue/Talks at NYU Florence: TBC

- SITE VISIT: Caffé Giubbe Rosse & Museo-Collezione Casamonti, Florence (off-campus class);
  Literary cafés and cultural avantgarde in Florence (off-campus class)

- FIELD TRIP, Friday MARCH 15: In Milan: “Encountering Contemporary Italian Writers and BOOK PRIDE Book Fair”

Encounter in class with contemporary Florentine writer Vanni Santoni, TBA;

Suggested Co-curricular Activities
TBA

Your Instructor
Alessandro Raveggi (Florence, 1980) teaches at New York University, Florence since 2013. He received his BA/MA from Università di Firenze in 2004 and his PhD at Università di Bologna in 2008. He held a post-doctoral fellowship in Italian Studies at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México for 2 years. As a researcher, Raveggi published several articles and chapters, in Italian and English, published in books on Modern Italian Literature, but also American and Latin-American literature. He wrote a monograph on Calvino and his cultural experience of America, "Calvino Americano. Identità e viaggio nel Nuovo Mondo", published in 2012 for Le Lettere. His last nonfiction book explores the figure of the American “cult” author David Foster Wallace ("David Foster Wallace", Doppiozero 2014). Professor Raveggi is also a novelist and a poet, and editor at the first Italian bilingual literary magazine The FLR – The Florentine Literary Review.

More info: http://alessandroraveggi.com