

NYU – Department of Italian
Florence/Summer 2019
Prof. Roberto Scarcella Perino
rsp3@nyu.edu
Italian Opera (V.59.9170.001SU18)
Villa Ulivi-Aula Firenze
Monday and Wednesday 9.00-12.00

Course Description:

The course covers the evolution of opera from Monteverdi to the early 20th century. The genres analyzed in this course are *favola in musica*, *intermezzo*, *opera seria*, *opera buffa*, *grand opera*, *dramma lirico*. Operatic production styles are considered with regard to the recordings used in the course; class discussion is meant to help students develop a critical approach to opera appreciation.

No specific musical training is required.

Grading:

Students are expected to attend all classes; absences will affect their course grade. All the events outside the class are mandatory. The midterm exam, the reviews and the final exam will count equally for the course grade, together with regular attendance and contribution to class discussion.

Homework:

During the course students will read article about operas and composers; and listening sections from the operas analyzed in class.

Text:

(Optional for Opera plots)

The Operagoer's Guide: One Hundred Stories and Commentaries, M. Owen Lee

Monday, May 27 – Campus & Academic Orientation

Wednesday, May 29

Introduction.

Working in an Opera.

Vocal Types: Soprano, Mezzo, Alto Tenor, Baritone, Bass

Homework: Opera Houses in Italy.

Friday, May 31

Legislative day. Monday Schedule.

This class will be held before the event on Thursday June 6.

Monday, June 3

Before the Opera

Baroque opera → Claudio Monteverdi: *Orfeo, Incoronazione di Poppea*.
Opera Seria and *Opera Buffa*.

Homework: Hand-out

Wednesday, June 5

Mozart e Da Ponte

Le nozze di Figaro, Così fan tutte, Don Giovanni

Homework: Libretto's analysis

Ore 11AM Visita del Teatro La Pergola

Thursday, June 6

Villa La Pietra 6:30PM Discussion

Concert Recital at 8:30PM: Continuum Theater

Singing Verdi in the Twenty-First Century:

A Pre-Concert Discussion with Young Singers from Accademia Verdiana di Parma,
moderated by Francesco Izzo and Larry Wolff.

Friday, Saturday June 7/8/9

Roma

Teatro dell'Opera di Roma

Rossini – *Cenerentola* - 8PM

Monday, June 10

Romanticism: Italian Bel Canto Rossini, *Il barbiere di Siviglia, Cenerentola*

Homework: The New Grove: Rossini; Philip Gossett pp.1-85

Wednesday, June 12

Italian Bel Canto → Donizetti: *Elisir d'amore* Bellini: *Norma*

Homework: The New Grove: Donizetti, Bellini; W. Ashbrook, J. Budden, F. Lippmann
pp.93-184

Wednesday, June 12 - 9:30PM-

Roberto Scarcella Perino

Furiosus @ Amphitheater - Villa La Pietra 9:30 PM

Monday June 17 (Midterm Exam)

Verdi's "Trilogia Popolare": *Rigoletto, Traviata, Il Trovatore*

Homework: The New Grove: Verdi; A. Porter pp.193-226

Monday June 17 - 8:30PM

Maggio Musicale Fiorentino

Teatro dell'Opera

Mozart: Le Nozze di Figaro

Wednesday, June 19

Verdi's late operas: Verdi: *Otello, Falstaff*

Homework: The New Grove: Verdi; A. Porter pp.227-295

Friday, Saturday June 21/22

Parma - Mantova

Monday June 24

Puccini's Dramaturgy: *La Boheme, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Turandot*

Homework: The New Grove: Puccini; M. Carner pp.311-342

Wednesday, June 26

Puccini: *vision and comments of an entire opera*

Homework: Handout

Monday, July 1

Realism and the Giovane Scuola. Leoncavallo: *Pagliacci*, Mascagni: *Cavalleria Rusticana*,

Other Italian Opera Composers: Ponchielli, Boito, Catalani, Cilea, Giordano.

Wednesday, July 3 FINAL EXAM

Bibliography (all listed books available in Villa Ulivi Library)

General reference:

Denise Gallo, Opera. The Basics (for musical terminology)

David Kimbell, Italian Opera

The New Grove Dictionary of Opera, 4 vols.

International Dictionary of Opera, 2 vols.

Oxford Who's Who in Opera, ed. Joyce Bourne

Opera. A History in Documents, ed. Piero Weiss

Studies on composers:

R. Osborne, Rossini

J. Budden, The Operas of Verdi, 3 vols.

W. Weaver (trans.), Seven Verdi Librettos

M.J. Phillips-Matz, Verdi. A Biography

M. Girardi, Giacomo Puccini: His International Art

J. Budden, Puccini. His Life and Works

J. Keolker, Last Acts. The Operas of Puccini and His Italian Contemporaries from Alfano to Zandonai

General R. Donington, Opera and its Symbols: the Unity of Words, Music and Myth

studies J. Kerman Opera as Drama on P. Robinson Opera, Sex and Other Vital Matters

opera: D. Charlton (ed.), The Cambridge Companion to Grand Opera

www.library.nyu

Find resource

Articles /databases

Music

Video

Opera

Scores