

Italian Graduate Courses – Spring 2014

ROIT 63011 INTRODUCTION TO ADVANCED STUDIES IN ITALIAN

TIME: TBD

Italian Faculty

Required of all students enrolled in graduate studies in Italian. Co-taught by all members of the Italian faculty, this year-long course of one-hour weekly classes addresses topics such as research methods, different ways of analyzing a text and/or particular genres, a survey of Italian literature, presentation of research and general matters of professionalization, etc. It includes a comprehensive examination on Italian literary history in each semester.

ROIT 63050 ITALIAN GRADUATE READING

T 3:30 - 6:15

J. Welle

This course will help students acquire a solid reading proficiency in Italian with an accelerated, comprehensive introduction to the language through a concise presentation of essential elements of the grammar and the process of translating Italian texts into English. The purpose of the course is to provide students with the tools and knowledge necessary to use Italian-language sources for research purposes and to reach the fourth semester or advanced intermediate level of a normal language sequence. The course focuses on skills of reading comprehension and functional translation. It does not cover the other communicative skills of writing, speaking and listening. Students will learn the basic grammar and structures of the Italian language and read texts in a variety of genres. A weekly dose of grammar and vocabulary-enhancing activities will be complimented by a series of translation exercises (both in class and at home), which will be assigned in order of increasing difficulty and length. Although no final grade will be assigned, there will be a number of quizzes, and exams, including a final exam, which if completed successfully will allow students to fulfill the graduate requirement of reading knowledge in a second language. The course will be taught in English.

LLRO 63108-01 TRUTH, LANGUAGE, LOVE: THE THEOLOGY OF DANTE'S COMEDY

M 3:30-6:15

V. Montemaggi

Taught in English, and requiring no prior knowledge of Dante, this course is intended for any graduate student wishing to spend a semester studying one of the greatest works in the Western tradition. We will concentrate on three aspects of Dante's work: 1) Dante's understanding of the divine, or 'truth'; 2) the conception of language and poetics underlying his presentation of our journey towards truth; 3) his notion of love as the fullest expression of both truth and language. We will reflect on these three things and on their interrelations with a specific focus on the narrative dynamics of Dante's text, and especially on its portrayal of human encounter. In doing so, we will have the opportunity to engage in detail with one of the greatest existing examples of the fusion between theological seeking and poetic experimentation. Cross lists: THEO, LIT, MI.

ROIT 63116 / MI 40553, 60553 / LIT 73665 DANTE II

TR 2-3:15

C. Moevs

See the description for ROIT 40116. While this is an undergraduate course, the level is suitable for graduate students, who will also read extensively in the secondary literature, and write a graduate-level paper.

ROIT 63430 LEOPARDI AND ROMANTIC ECOCRITICISM: THE LANGUAGE OF NATURE

W 3:30-6:15

S. Ferri

Giacomo Leopardi (1798-1837), one of the most original thinkers of Italian Romanticism, developed a complex and unique philosophy of the natural world that defines his entire intellectual project. The course will focus on Leopardi's understanding of nature as it emerges from his literary and philosophical works. We will address the aesthetic, philosophical, and historical implications of his conception of nature, the way in which it intersects with his practice and theory of literature, and its relation to the environmental and aesthetic paradigms of European Romanticism. Texts will include: Leopardi's major works; selected writings by European Romantic authors; and readings in ecocriticism. Topics of discussion will cover: the contrast between Classical and Romantic models; the Sublime and the Picturesque; materialistic and transcendental conceptions of nature; the relationship between the human and the non-human. The course will be conducted in English, but all primary texts are in Italian. Secondary literature is in English and in Italian. Cross lists: LLRO, LIT.

ROIT 63548 / FTT 60250 ITALIAN CINEMA**TR 12:30-1:45****Z. Baranski**

See the description for ROIT 40548. While this is an undergraduate course, it is suitable for graduate students with modified requirements.

ROIT 63952 PIER PAOLO PASOLINI: LIFE AS ART AND COMMITMENT**T 2:00-4:45****Z. Baranski**

Pier Paolo Pasolini (1922-1975) is almost certainly Italy's major post-war intellectual and artist, whose work ranged widely across different media, literary forms and genres. In addition, for much of his career, Pasolini saw himself as engaging both with contemporary events and debates and with the preceding artistic and intellectual tradition. This hugely ambitious endeavour, beyond its clear public aims, also had complex private goals. Thus, Pasolini considered his *oeuvre* as a monument to himself. Commitment for Pasolini was both something energetically social and intimately personal. The course aims to assess Pasolini's complex, confusing and contradictory career in light both of post-war Italian culture and of major contemporary international cultural and political developments. In particular, the course will focus on a selection of his poetry, his narrative, critical, theoretical and 'political' prose, and his cinema. Cross lists: LLRO, LIT.