

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2015-2016 ITAL 205 B1: Topics in Italian Culture
All Music Italian, a Visual Panorama from the 1950s to the Present
(Winter Term)

Instructor: W. Anselmi

Office: 239-D

Telephone: N/A

E-mail: wanselmi@ualberta.ca

Personal Website: N/A

Time: T R 12:30PM - 1:50PM

Place: HC 2-25

Office Hours: Wed.: 13:00 – 14:00; Thu.: 14:00 – 15:00,

or by appointment

Course Website: N/A

Course Prerequisite: none

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

The scope of this course is to introduce students to the variegated world of Italian music. It will offer a musical spectrum ranging from mainstream/pop music (musica leggera), to the alternative scene(s): cantautori (singer/songwriters), punk, hip-hop, rap, prog, electronic, indie. The visual representations (television clips, you tube videos, etc.) will provide our focus of analysis, so as to come to an understanding of the power of the moving image as well as the resonance of lyrics. Typical questions will be: why is this song important/not important? How do the visual representations capture our attention?

What roles do the lyrics play? Is social, cultural, and political context important for the appreciation of such a song?

Our investigative trajectory will begin in the mid-Fifties of the 20th Century and end at the present day. Furthermore, the cultural period of the various songs will be presented and utilized in order to critically understand the relationship constituted by visual representation, performer, distribution, public reception and contexts. At the end of the course, students will have at his/her disposal a panorama of Italian music, of styles and genres, of performers and contexts, as well as an on-going, critical knowledge about the role of the dynamic image in our contemporary Western societies.

The course is taught in English with no prerequisite.

Texts:

There are no texts for this course. Materials will be provided by the instructor.

Recommended:

Anselmi, W. "From cantautori to posse: Sociopolitical Discourse, Engagement and Antagonism in the Italian Music Scene from the 60s to the 90s". In, Richard Young (ed.), *Music, Popular Culture, Identities*. (2002). Electronic Resource.

F. Fabbri, G. Plastino. *Made in Italy – Studies in Popular Music*. 2014.
(ML 3494 M23 2013)

The book is on reserve in the Rutheford library.

Grade Distribution (see "Explanatory Notes"):

5% - Description I. Student's brief description (about a page) of his/her knowledge of Italian music. To be handed in second week of classes.

15% - Description II. End of term student's description of his/her knowledge of Italian music (from 750 to 1000 wds), in comparison to first description. To be handed in second last week of classes.

20% - Participation.

20% - Dossier. Weekly entries, about 100/150 wds. To be handed in last day of classes.

20% - Presentation.

20% - Final essay. To be consigned last day of classes. 2000 wds.

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2015-2016 academic year can be found at the

following site: <http://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2015-Winter-2016-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

N/A

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Description I is the student's reporting his/her knowledge of/about Italian music before starting the course. *Description II* is the student's sense of knowledge acquired during the term, in class, in his/her research, through engagement with other students, and is to be compared to Description I.

The *Dossier* is a weekly activity by part of the student. It can be considered a form of a journal where the students reflects and notes particular points he/she found engaging during class and outside of class. It should consist of at least two entries. About 100 to 150 wds per week.

Presentations will begin first week in February. They can be done individually, or in groups (max. 3 people). They should be about 20m long, before any discussion/engagement with class members (about 10m).

Final Essay should be about 2000 wds, it can consist of a critical analysis of a particular genre, of an individual artist, of a comparison with the English-American music world. In each case it is suggested that at least 3 songs be considered. For songs in Italian, although on-line translation machines are getting better, it is suggested you check materials with your instructor so as to avoid any possible mistranslations of texts, given such possible problems as idiomatic expressions used in Italian lyrics.

Required Notes:

"Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University calendar."

Academic Integrity:

"The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University."

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections

23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, attendance is obligatory.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.sds.ualberta.ca).

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Excellent: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Good
B	75-81%	3.0	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Poor: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	Failure: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements