

**Department:** MCL

**Course No:** ILCS 1170 [170]

**Credits:** 3

**Title:** Introducing Italy through its regions

**Contact:** Roger Travis, Norma Bouchard

**Content Area:** CA1 Arts and Humanities

**Catalog Copy:** Introducing Italy Through Its Regions Either semester. Three credits. Lectures in English Development and perceptions of the diverse cultures of Italy through the analysis of literary and cinematic works from and about the different Italian regions and their cultural centers, such as Rome , Naples , Florence , Palermo , Venice . This course is a repeatable topics course .

**Course Information:** a. course goals and objectives. This course focuses on the diversity of Italian regional cultures by focusing on Naples , in the Campania region. It examines a wide-ranging body of texts that exemplify the diversity and complexity of Neapolitan cultures as seen from the eyes of artists, philosophers, scientists, Italian male and female writers as well as through the " Orientalizing " gaze of Northern Italian and European travelers on the Grand Southern Tour. As such, this course fulfills two objectives. One the one hand, it introduces students to the many symbolic forms that represent Italian regional culture, such as literature, history, sociology, opera, and film. On the other hand, this course also seeks to explore complex issues of ancient and recent colonization, the hybridity that ensues, inter-ethnic and inter-racial relations that have characterized Southern Italian regional culture in its 25 century of history, from Greek, Roman, Byzantine , and Arab settlements to Norman, Spanish, and French dynasties.

b . course requirements: Mid term and final exams. The exams are in the form of short essay questions, definitions and identifications. Exams also include background, factual information, and interpretative material presented during the lectures and class-discussions. Students are also asked to write 2 essays on the main topics around which this course is structured.

c. List the major themes, issues, topics, etc., to be covered

- 1) Naples as Mediterranean Crossroad: Graeco -Roman, Byzantine, Arab, and Lombard Influences
- 2) Spanish Naples: City of Love and Marvels or of Political Passions?
- 3) Naples as the City of Art and Aestheticism or as the City of Philosophy and Science?
- 4) Naples and the "Oriental" Gaze: Northern Italians and European Travelers write the city
- 5) Gendering Naples : Women narrate the City-- Nuns, Wives, and Political Heroines
- 6) Naples in Modern Times: Fascism and Resistance, Modernization and Tradition

**Meets Goals of Gen Ed:** This course focuses on the hybrid cultures of Naples from the early Graeco -Roman settlements to modern times. The inclusion of a variety of texts, including historical accounts, travel narratives, operas, scientific and philosophical writings, and films, fosters intellectual versatility while the perspectives from which these texts are written (i.e., oral narratives, Northern Italian and Northern European travelers, women authors, Neapolitan folklore artists, popular singers, Fascist and anti-Fascist intellectuals, etc.) allows students to acquire consciousness of the diversity of human culture and experience.

**CAI Criteria:** The topics and issues addressed by this course follow a chronological development and therefore examine Neapolitan cultures according to specific social and historical developments spanning from pre- to modern times and therefore encompassing the early settlements, the arrivals of the Arabs, the Norman Kingdom, the Spanish colonization, the Enlightenment, the Liberal Revolution of 1799 and the events that led to the unification of Italy in 1860, Fascism, the Liberation and the post-war modernization. Students are also given the critical tools necessary to analyze and appreciate the many modes of symbolic representation that record Neapolitan cultures in literature, history, philosophy, drama, popular culture, and cinema.

**Laboratory Courses Description:** The laboratory component of this course is the screening. The hours vary according to each video, but the average is 2 hours each. Attendance is mandatory and is determined by sign-up sheets, class-discussions, and quizzes

**Role of Grad Students:** This course has received a grant from the Provost's General Education New Course Development competition.

### **Supplementary Information:**

INTRODUCING ITALY THROUGH ITS REGIONS. SYLLABUS NAPLES AND THE CAMPANIA Naples and the Campania today consist of an amazing and unpredictable array of superimposed cultures extending over 25 centuries of history. In the tenth century BC, Greeks from Rhodes established a settlement that by 600 BC was called Neapolis , or new city . In subsequent centuries, Romans, Normans , and Spanish and French dynasties ruled the city. Naples has been a culturally ambivalent capital, both "oriental" and European, and represented in many different ways. This course analyzes the images, stereotypes, and realities of the city and its region, including its dialectal culture, through history, literature, sociology, architecture, opera, and film from and about Naples .

Primary readings include Boccaccio, Petrarch, Basile , Marino, Vico , Cuoco , Serao , Caracciolo , Croce, the Neapolitan Futurists, Malaparte . Selections from Goethe's Italian Journey, de Staël's Corinne, or Italy, Stendhal's Rome, Naples, and Florence, Sontag's The Volcano Lover. Films: Decameron ( Pasolini ), Cinderella: Italian Style ( Rosi ), The Gold of Naples (De Sica ), Paisà (Rossellini), The Skin ( Cavani ), Hands Over the City ( Rosi ). Texts Reader (available at UConn-Coop) Tommaso Astarita , Between Salt Water and Holy Water. A History of Southern Italy . New York / London : Norton, 2005 (available at UConn-Coop)

Requirements: Participation in class discussion, Quizzes, Class presentation, Mid-term examination, Two short papers, Final examination.

## MEDITERRANEAN NAPLES : BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, NORTH AND SOUTH

Week 1 Introduction to the course. Naples Today and the Greek New Polis Early Settlements, from

Greco-Roman Naples to the Norman Kingdom . Readings : Astarita , A History of Southern Italy Articles from the NYT and "The San Francisco Chronicle" Neapolitans, or the "Leaf-Eaters": Naples under Byzantine, Arab, and Lombard Influences Readings : Lancaster , In The Shadow of the Vesuvius

Week 2 The Birth of Neapolitan Images: Naples as the City of Love , Scoundrels, and Marvels. Readings : Boccaccio , Amorous Fiammetta , I-II; V. Boccaccio , Decameron . II, 5. Petrarch , "The Woman Warrior from Pozzuoli," Rerum familiarum libri , V, 4 Astarita , A History of Southern Italy Film: Pasolini , Decameron

Week 3 The Birth of Neapolitan Images: Naples as the City of Love or of Political Passions? Naples as a Spanish Colony: Dialect as Cultural Resistance and the Popular Uprising. Readings : Basile , "Introduction;" "The Cat Cinderella," I, 6 from Lo cunto de li cunti . (Neapolitan/English) Donzelli , "A Desire for Freedom," Giraffi , " Masaniello's Revolution of 1647" Astarita , A History of Southern Italy Film: Rosi , Cinderella: Italian Styles

## THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FABRIC OF THE LARGEST EUROPEAN METROPOLIS

Week 4 Naples: the City of Art and Aestheticism: Melodrama and the School of Caravaggio Readings: Bazin , "Definitions," from The Baroque Wellek , "The concept of Baroque" De LaLande , "Neapolitan Theater" Marino, Poems (selections) Astarita , A History of Southern Italy Music: Selections from Neapolitan Operas Film: Corbiau , Farinelli

Week 5 Naples as the City of Enlightenment: Science and Philosophy Readings: Girolamo Imbruglia , "Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century Naples." Vico , Autobiography Vico , On the Study Method of Our Times Astarita , A History of Southern Italy

Week 6 Ethnographic Discoveries and the "Otherness" of Naples , the Last Stop on the Grand Tour Readings : Schnapp , "Antiquarian Studies in Naples . From Comparative Archaeology to Comparative Religion" "September 19: San Gennaro ;" "The Liquefaction of the Blood of San gennato as Witnessed by Michael Kelly" Goethe, "Naples," from Italian Journey Astarita , A History of Southern Italy

## THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES Women Narrate Naples: Wives , Nuns, or Political Heroines?

Week 7 The 1799 Liberal Revolution. The People and the Heroine. Readings: De Francesco, How Not to Finish a Revolution Cuoco , Historical Essay on the Neapolitan Revolution (selections) Sontag , The Volcano Lover (selections) Film: De Lillo , Eleonora

Week 8 Women in Nineteenth-Century Naples Readings : De Stäel , " Naples and the Hermitage of San Salvatore," from Corinne. Enrichetta Caracciolo , Mysteries of the Neapolitan Convents Serao , The Land of Cockayne (selections) Gisolfi , The Essential Serao (selections)

#### THE 'OTHERNESS' OF NAPLES

Week 9 Naples as ' Africa ': the Southern Question, the Cholera Epidemic, and the Urban Renewal. Readings : Cavour , Letter to the King Victor Emmanuel Croce, History of the Kingdom of Naples Gramsci , The Southern Question (selections)

Week 10 Cultural Life, Between Dialectal Tradition and Experimental Theater. The Birth of the Neapolitan Song Readings: "The Language of Naples" Popular Songs ( Di Giacomo , D'Annunzio , Turco ) Cangiullo , Futurist soirees (selections). Marinetti , Manifestoes. Astarita , A History of Southern Italy Tapes: Carosello Napoletano Futurist Performances

Week 11 Naples : City of Fascism or Resistance? Fascism: Readings : Croce, "Manifesto of the Anti-fascist intellectuals." Mussolini, "Speech in Naples " Astarita , A History of Southern Italy

Week 12 After the Liberation: the Americans in Naples . Readings : Malaparte , "The Skin." Film clips: Rossellini, Paisà Astarita , A History of Southern Italy Film: From Text to Film: Cavani , The Skin.

Week 13 Naples of Modernization and Tradition: Modern Icons of Napoletanità . Neorealism meets Naples (Loren, "Eduardo," Totó ). Readings : Marotta , Return to Naples (selections). De Filippo , Naples gets rich Film: De Sica , The Gold of Naples.