IL CORTIGIANO E LA CORTIGIANA
NELL’ITALIA RINASCIMENTALE
~ ITALIANO 239 ~
PROF. DANIEL LEISAWITZ
AUTUNNO 2011
LUNEDÌ E MERCOLEDÌ, ORE 14.40 ~ 16.00
FISK 116

Course Description

Italian 239 explores the worlds of two social figures of great significance during the Italian Renaissance: the courtier and the courtesan. As a window onto Renaissance society and culture, we will study the self-fashioning of the male courtier, his aims, duties, desires and concerns. Similarly, we will explore the sphere of the Renaissance Italian courtesan, some of whom rose to wealth and social significance by way of various exchanges—literary, erotic, and otherwise. In order to understand the spaces occupied and the roles played by these figures, we will examine a variety of texts written both by and about courtiers and courtesans, including treatises, poetry, short stories, letters, court transcripts, epic poems, autobiographies, plays, and histories.

Much like our own culture, that of Renaissance Italy was steeped in visual media, so we will also study art works, particularly the painting of “High Renaissance” artists Raphael Sanzio and Paolo Veronese.

In addition to the written and visual texts of the day, we will also engage with reflections on the period from our own time, including films, comics, and newspaper articles.

Goals of the Course

1) To explore the complex and multi-faceted world of the Italian Renaissance through the figures of the courtier and courtesan.
2) To improve students’ linguistic skills (comprehension, speaking, reading, writing) through engagement with literary, historical and visual texts, writing assignments, and class discussions.

Texts

All literary texts and films will be in Italian. Secondary material will be in Italian, and occasionally in English. There are no required book purchases for this course. Instead, all written texts will be uploaded in pdf onto the course’s Moodle site, and students will be expected to print them out each week. Students must purchase a 3-ring binder at the beginning of the semester in which to organize and store all the printouts. The 3-ring binder is obligatory, and students are expected to bring it to each class meeting. Films and other a/v texts will also be available on the course’s Moodle page.
Online Resources

There are two online resources that will help you a great deal over the course of the semester. You are encouraged to use them:

1) Garzanti Linguistica dizionari online: http://garzantilinguistica.sapere.it
2) Italica Rinascimento: http://www.italica.rai.it/monografie/rinascimento

Use of online translators is not permitted for any assignments.

Assignments

1) Readings, Viewings & Listennings. There will be texts assigned for reading, viewing or listening for each class. It is imperative that students keep up with these assignments in order to participate fully in class discussions. Students will be expected to print out all written texts and bring them to class organized in a 3-ring binder. It is advisable that students do their reading from printouts, as opposed to reading texts on the computer screen; this allows for better note taking and is easier on the eyes.

2) Discussion Questions: Before the end of most class periods, a list of Domande di discusione will be distributed, and students will select one question each from the list. These questions pertain to the reading to be done for the following class, and each student is responsible for preparing a 1-2 minute answer to be presented orally at the beginning of the following class. This way, each student is responsible for concentrating particularly closely on a certain aspect of the assigned texts. This does not mean, however, that students should only focus on a single part of the readings. Students are always expected to attentively read and consider the entire assignment. The beginning of most class sessions’ discussion will be based on the students’ answers to the discussion questions and ensuing conversation. These domande constitute an integral part of the seminar, and the importance of thorough preparation of the discussion questions is reflected in the considerable weight given to them in the calculation of the final course grade (25%). Students will be graded not only on the quality of the ideas they present for their own question, but also on the reflections and thoughts they express in reaction to the answers of other students.

3) Il temone: Over the course of the semester, students will write a lengthy, in-depth study on an idea(s) treated in the course. This temone will be developed cumulatively through three phases, spaced out along the semester. The temone will develop as follows: 1) after the first few weeks of the semester, students will choose a general theme, and analyze this theme in one or more of the texts read in class; 2) several weeks later, students will do some secondary-source research on the theme and add this to their paper, correcting, as well, the mistakes made in the first phase; 3) students further expand and develop the paper adding new texts and perhaps another secondary source, correcting mistakes made in the second-phase paper. In this way, by the end of the semester students will have examined pro-
foundly a particular aspect of Italian Renaissance culture, and will have honed their analytical and written skills by fine-tuning and elaborating upon a single, long-term project.

4) **Vocabolario:** Students are required to add 5 new words to the online Vocabolario for every reading/film. Your performance here will be factored into your Attendance & Participation grade.

**Orals**

There will be two graded oral discussions along the course of the semester: the first at the mid-term, the second at the end. Orals will be conducted individually with the instructor, and will be based on the texts covered up until the class before the exam. Students will be graded on three aspects of their conversation: grammatical accuracy; fluency of speech; content and ideas.

**Attendance & Participation**

For a seminar such as this to be successful, regular attendance and substantial participation are of critical importance. Students are expected to come to class well prepared and on time, and to participate fully in class discussions. *Being well prepared for class* means the following: having carefully read (or viewed/listened to) the entire assignment for the assigned class; having prepared a meaningful response to your “discussion question”; coming to class with an open and eager mind; bringing your 3-ring binder to every class meeting containing printouts of all reading assignments up to that class; handing in written assignments on time. *Full participation in class* means the following: generously sharing your ideas, reflections, and opinions on the material with the rest of the class; contributing regularly and meticulously to the course Vocabolario; communicating only in Italian; making a sincere effort to use the most grammatically accurate Italian possible; listening attentively to others’ interventions; being respectful of others’ opinions even when in disagreement with them; asking questions of the instructor and other students; and engaging the instructor and the other students in discussion. **Use of laptops and cell phones is prohibited in class.** A total of two absences is permissible over the course of the semester. Any absence after the second will result in a lower final grade (unless extenuating circumstances arise, which you can discuss with the instructor).

**Office Hours**

Students are encouraged to come to weekly office hours for help with assignments, or simply for extra practice speaking Italian. While coming to office hours is not mandatory, occasional attendance is highly recommended. If you cannot make it to normally schedule office hours, feel free to make appointments with the instructor outside of normal office hours. Office hours are: **Mondays, 1:30-2:30; Wednesdays 9:00-10:00 and 4:00-5:00; and by appointment.**
Grade Breakdown

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temone</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral exams</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100-98</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97-94</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>93-90</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>86-84</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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Extra Credit Opportunities

Over the course of the semester three Italian movies will be screened by the FLTA: attendance at any of these movies will count toward extra credit in your Attendance & Participation grade. You can also receive extra credit in Attendance & Participation by frequenting the Caffè italiano. Extra credit will also be granted for attendance at the Dewey Dell performances. Other opportunities for extra credit may arise during the semester.

Tutoring

While you are encouraged to seek the help of an Italian tutor if you feel you are in need of one, all work you do for class must be your own, and your own only. So, for instance, you may not take your composition to a tutor and ask him/her to indicate what has to be corrected or how. If you are earning a course grade lower than a B, you may consult your instructor about securing a tutor. He will speak with your Class Dean, who will find an appropriate tutor for you.

Students with disabilities

It is the policy of Wesleyan University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require accommodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at: [http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html](http://www.wesleyan.edu/deans/disability-students.html).
SILLABO INDICATIVO

1° settimana

per mercoledì 7 settembre

Leggi: il materiale riguardante l’attuale “corte” berlusconiana.

2° settimana

per lunedì 12 settembre

Leggi: “Duplice aspetto del Rinascimento e del Cinquecento” di Antonio Piromalli
Leggi: Power & Imagination di Lauro Martines [selezioni]

per mercoledì 14 settembre

Leggi: la lettera di Pietro Aretino a Francesco degli Albizi
Pranzo con Dewey Dell ad Usdan

3° settimana

per lunedì 19 settembre

Leggi: Storia d’Italia di Francesco Guicciardini [selezioni]
Guarda: Il mestiere delle armi di Ermanno Olmi

per mercoledì 21 settembre

si continua con il film di Olmi

4° settimana

per lunedì 26 settembre

Leggi: la dedica e i proemi de Il cortigiano di Baldassare Castiglione

per mercoledì 28 settembre

Leggi: i brani sulla sprezzatura tratti da Il cortigiano.
Leggi: la traduzione di Hoby [selezione]
5ª settimana

per lunedì 3 ottobre

***Consegna fase 1 del Temone***
Leggi: “Il processo verbale di Paolo Veronese davanti al Santo Ufficio”

per mercoledì 5 ottobre

Leggi: canto 13 dell’Inferno di Dante Alighieri

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6ª settimana

per lunedì 10 ottobre

Leggi: lo scambio di lettere fra Niccolò Machiavelli e Francesco Vettori

per mercoledì 12 ottobre

Leggi: l’Orlando furioso di Ludovico Ariosto [selezioni]

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7ª settimana

per lunedì 17 ottobre

Leggi: l’Orlando furioso di Ludovico Ariosto [selezioni]

per mercoledì 19 ottobre

Leggi: l’Orlando furioso di Ludovico Ariosto [selezioni]

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Pausa autunnale

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8ª settimana

per mercoledì 26 ottobre

Leggi: i brani riguardanti Caterina Sforza di Niccolò Machiavelli
9^ settimana

per lunedì 31 ottobre

***Consegna fase 2 del *Temone***
Leggi: *I Borgia* di Milo Manara & Alejandro Jodorowsky

per mercoledì 2 novembre

Leggi: *La vita* di Benvenuto Cellini [selezioni]

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10^ settimana

per lunedì 7 novembre

Leggi: *La vita* di Benvenuto Cellini [selezioni]

per mercoledì 9 novembre

Leggi: *La vita* di Benvenuto Cellini [selezioni]

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11^ settimana

per lunedì 14 novembre

Leggi: *La vita* di Benvenuto Cellini [selezioni]

per mercoledì 16 novembre

Leggi: il *Candelaio* di Giordano Bruno [selezione]

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12^ settimana

per lunedì 21 novembre

Leggi: *Novelle* di Matteo Brandello [selezioni]

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*Vacanze del ringraziamento*
13ª settimana

per lunedì 28 novembre

si continua con le Novelle di Brandello

per mercoledì 30 novembre

Leggi: Rima 2 di Veronica Franco

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14ª settimana

per lunedì 5 dicembre

Leggi: Lettera 22 di Veronica Franco
Guarda: Lucrezia Borgia. Un’intervista impossibile di Maria Bellonci di Florestano Vancini

per mercoledì 7 dicembre

***Consegna fase 3 del Temone***

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fine