



JFRC –Fall 2026 –LITR 200 –European Masterpieces –Dr.DiBiagi

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

[Tu/Th, SALA ADDIS, 2:15-3:30 PM]

Major European literary texts will be examined in an historical and cultural context and in their trans-historical, universal aspects that make them masterpieces. Students will understand how literary masterpieces help us develop consciousness of our experience.



CLASSWORK-PARTICIPATION:

Attendance is strict (no excused absence). Students are expected to come to every class well prepared, & having read textbooks, pay attention, then contribute to the class discussion. Students should be familiar with the Honor Code of University Life, abide by its standards at all times, & expect similar behavior from their peers.

GOALS / OUTCOMES:

-Get exposed to great literature, and to the pleasure of reading meaningful writing. -Learn to analyze text and content of a novel to appreciate literature as a tool to make a point. -Reflect on how violence & pressure work in defining identity. -Study European (not least Italian) culture and history, and its legacy on modern times.

Building identity through experience of crisis and exile.

Readings and films:

Tonio Kröger, Thomas Mann → *Death in Venice* (Luchino Visconti, 1971)
Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad → *Apocalypse Now* (F.F.Coppola, 1979)
The Stranger, Albert Camus → *The Battle of Algiers* (G.Pontecorvo, 1966)
Survival in Auschwitz, Primo Levi → *Kapò* (G.Pontecorvo,1960)

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Office: Room B10
Tuesdays 4:00-5:00 PM
Thursdays 12:00-1:00 PM
or by appointment

AND one extra reading to be selected from these (your choice):

1. *The Leopard*, Tomasi di Lampedusa
2. *A Woman*, Sibilla Aleramo
3. *Death in Venice*, Thomas Mann
4. *The Late Mattia Pascal*, Luigi Pirandello
5. *A World Apart*, Gustaw Herling-Grudzinski
6. *The Mandarins*, Simone De Beauvoir
7. *The Metamorphosis*, Franz Kafka
8. *Nausea*, Jean-Paul Sartre
9. *Mrs Dalloway*, Virginia Woolf
10. *Zeno's Conscience*, Italo Svevo
11. *Under Fire*, Henry Barbusse
12. *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Maria Remarque
13. *1984*, George Orwell
14. *Two Women*, Alberto Moravia
15. *History*, Elsa Morante

Grading scale and percentages:

Final grade is actually the result of reading texts, attending classes, studying, and "thinking". The following **scale** and **percentages** will be used to evaluate the student's work and performance: SCALE: **A** = 100-94 **A-** = 93-90 **B+** = 89-87 **B** = 86-84 **B-** 83-80 **C+** = 79-77 **C** = 76-74 **C-** = 73-70 **D+** = 69-67 **D** = 66-63 **D-** = 62-60 **F** = Below 60; PERCENTAGES: Class participation: 10% -Oral report: 10% -Quizzes: 20% -Midterm: 20% -Final Exam: 20% -Final paper: 20%.

DAY-BY-DAY SCHEDULE:

Sep.1 (TUE): intro, Europ. Lit., Lit. Analysis + intro to *Tonio Kröger*

Sep.3 (THU): *Tonio Kröger*

Sep.8 (TUE): *Tonio Kröger*

Sep.10 (THU): *Death in Venice*

Sep.15 (TUE): *Death in Venice*

Sep.17 (THU): **Quiz 1** + intro to *Heart of Darkness*

Sep.22 (TUE): *Heart of Darkness*

Sep.24 (THU): *Heart of Darkness*

Sep.29 (TUE): *Heart of Darkness*

Oct.1 (THU): *Apocalypse Now*

Oct.6 (TUE): *Apocalypse Now*

Oct.8 (THU): **Quiz 2** + review/recap + intro to *The Stranger*

October 9-18: FALL BREAK

Oct.20 (TUE): **Midterm Exam**

Oct.22 (THU): *The Stranger*

Oct.23 (FRI): *The Stranger*

Oct.27 (TUE): *The Battle of Algiers*

Oct.29 (THU): *The Battle of Algiers*

Nov.3 (TUE): **Quiz 3** + intro to *Survival in Auschwitz*

Nov.5 (THU): *Survival in Auschwitz*

Nov.10 (TUE): *Survival in Auschwitz*

Nov.12 (THU): *Survival in Auschwitz*

Nov.17 (TUE): *Kapo*

Nov.19 (THU): *Kapo*

Nov.24 (TUE): **Quiz 4** + oral reports (one Extra novel selected from the list)

November 26-November 29: THANKSGIVING

Dec.1 (TUE): oral reports (one Extra novel selected from the list)

Dec.3 (THU): oral reports, recap, conclusions, final exam

Final Exam: December 8, Tuesday - Sala Addis [Conference Room 2] - 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

Absences:

-Attendance at JFRC is mandatory.
-After 2 absences, a 2% final grade reduction will be applied for each missed class.
-Missing 6 classes or more will result in an automatic failure (F).