LIT 200: European Masterpieces: Looking for Love in the Italian Renaissance
John Felice Rome Center
Spring 2022
Mondays & Wednesdays | 3:45-5 pm
Dr. Julia L. Hairston
Email: jhairston@luc.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 3-3:30 pm/Wednesdays 5-5:30 pm

Course Description
This course makes use of a variety of literary genres—lyric and narrative poetry, familiar letters, short tales (novelle), dialogue, the philosophical treatise, and comedy—to explore the theory and practice of love in the Italian Renaissance. We will explore how love is defined, which types of love (not only romantic love, but also filial, spiritual, familial, or love for one’s city), the advantages and disadvantages of each, and love’s relation to power and social status. This discussion will lead us to consider some of the most important cultural debates in Italy, and Europe, from the fourteenth to the sixteenth centuries such as humanism, Neoplatonism, the emergence of the individual, the querelle des femmes or the “woman question,” the development of manners and public comportment. Our readings include works by Petrarch, Boccaccio, Ficino, Castiglione, Colonna, Stampa, and Michelangelo and will all be in English.

In addition to reading and discussing the texts thoroughly in class, we will spend time considering the ways in which genre may affect content and consider the degree to which the emotions described and prescribed relate to what we today consider love. One important element to define a literary “masterpiece,” or classic, is its continuing relevance to our contemporary society. Our discussions will also ponder those aspects of our readings.

The study of literature requires significant attention to language, so form as well as content. This is also true in a course of literature in translation. We will study some specifics of the Italian literary tradition, particularly as regards poetry and, to this end, we may at times look as some of the original poems. We may also compare translations. Your essays will need to include research from critical readings to support your argument. To this end, we will devote one class session to research and citing research on Italian literature. All papers should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and use Times New Roman font 12 pt. and the Chicago style should be used.

Paper 1 (3-4 pages) on Petrarch
Paper 2 (4-5 pages) on Boccaccio, The Comedy of Calandra, or sixteenth-century poetry
Paper 3 (8-9 pages) on Castiglione, Ariosto, or a topic chosen by the student with advance approval by the instructor

This course fulfills the Tier 2 literary knowledge core and writing-intensive requirements.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the course students should be able to:
• identify and describe the major cultural movements of the fourteenth to the sixteenth centuries in Italy;
• master basic literary terminology and use it effectively to analyze literary texts;
• build a solid intellectual foundation on which to expand one’s knowledge of love, sexuality, and gender in early modern Italy;
• improve their ability to discuss and evaluate literature both critically and affectively in a group setting;
• enhance their writing skills in terms of style, organization, researching, and developing an argument according to the conventions of literary analysis.

Required Text / Materials
Assigned readings posted on Sakai for this course include excerpts from:

**Attendance Policy**
In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
- For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.
- For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets twice a week, thus a total of two unexcused absence(s) will be permitted. **Unexcused absences beyond these will result in 1% lowering of the final course grade, for every absence after the “approved limit.”** The collective health of the JFRC is everyone’s responsibility. DO NOT ATTEND CLASS IF YOU ARE ILL.

**Assessment Components**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Paper 1</td>
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<td>Paper 2</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Participation**
Active participation is fundamental to the success of this course. Students should read the assignment ahead of time and bring a copy of the reading to class, which we will discuss together for some portion of the meeting.

**Grading**
- 94-100: A
- 90-93: A-
- 87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
67-69: D+
60-66: D
59 or lower: F

Academic Honesty
Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago’s guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola’s standards here: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml. You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

Late or Missed Assignments
Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

Accessibility Accommodations
Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.

Course Schedule
Friday Class Days:
Friday, February 4 (Wednesday schedule)
Friday, March 18 (Thursday schedule)
Friday, April 8 (Monday schedule)

Week One
Monday, January 17  Introduction

Wednesday, January 19  Precedents and Conventions
Reading assignment: excerpts from Woman Defamed and Woman Defended

Week Two
Monday, January 24  Introduction to Petrarch and Italy in the Fourteenth Century

Wednesday, January 26  The Search for Self
Reading assignment: Petrarch, selected poetry

Week Three
Monday, January 31  Love & Death
Reading assignment: Petrarch, selected poetry

Wednesday, February 2  Writing Workshop
Reading assignment: excerpts from The Elements of Style and worksheet on the Chicago style
Week Four
Monday, February 7 Framing the Tale
Reading assignment: Boccaccio, excerpts from *The Decameron*
**Paper 1 due today**

Wednesday, February 9 Masetto of Lamporecchio and Filippo Balducci’s Son
Reading assignment: Boccaccio, excerpts from *The Decameron*

Week Five
Monday, February 14 Madonna Filippa
Reading assignment: Boccaccio, excerpts from *The Decameron*

Wednesday, February 16 Neoplatonism
Reading assignment: Ficino, excerpts from *Commentary on Plato’s Symposium on Love*

Week Six
Monday, February 21 “Petrarchists”
Reading assignment: selected poetry by Vittoria Colonna and Tullia d’Aragona

Wednesday, February 23 “Petrarchists” 2
Reading assignment: selected poetry by Gaspara Stampa and Veronica Franco

Week Seven
Monday, February 28 Written midterm examination

[Spring Break: March 7-13]

Week Eight
Monday, March 14 Michelangelo
Reading assignment: selected poetry from Michelangelo Buonarroti

Wednesday, March 16 Theatrical Comedy
Reading assignment: *The Comedy of Calandro*

Week Nine
Monday, March 21 Mistaken Identities
Reading assignment: *The Comedy of Calandro*
**Paper 2 due today**

Wednesday, March 23 Introduction to *The Book of the Courtier*
Reading assignment: Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier*, Book 1

Week Ten
Monday, March 28 Appearance and reputation
Reading assignment: Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier*, Book 2

Wednesday, March 30 Class cancelled
Week Eleven
Monday, April 4   The Court Lady
Reading assignment: Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier*, Book 3

Wednesday, April 6   The Courtier, the Prince, and the Ladder of Love
Reading assignment: Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier*, Book 4

Friday, April 8   Introduction to Ludovico Ariosto’s *Orlando furioso (The Frenzy of Orlando)*
Reading assignment: excerpts from Ariosto, *Orlando furioso (The Frenzy of Orlando)*

Week Twelve
Monday, April 11   Errant Knights
Reading assignment: excerpts from Ariosto, *Orlando furioso (The Frenzy of Orlando)*

Wednesday, April 13   Sorceresses
Reading assignment: excerpts from Ariosto, *Orlando furioso (The Frenzy of Orlando)*

Week Thirteen
Monday, April 18   Class cancelled

Wednesday, April 20   Fly Me to the Moon
Reading assignment: excerpts from Ariosto, *Orlando furioso (The Frenzy of Orlando)*

Week Fourteen
Monday, April 25   Desert Islands
Reading assignment: excerpts from Ariosto, *Orlando furioso (The Frenzy of Orlando)*

Wednesday, April 27   Oral presentation of final papers

**Paper 3 due today**

Week Fifteen
TBD   Final Exam