LITR 200: European Masterpieces  
John Felice Rome Center  
Summer 2019  
Tuesday & Thursday | 2 – 5pm  
Barbara Castaldo, Ph.D.  
Email: bcastaldo@luc.edu  
Office Hours: By Appointment, T/TH

Course Description
The great European cities will be the focal point of this course. Rome, Paris, London and Prague are the geographical settings of literary masterpieces written by European authors of the 19th and 20th century, describing the rise and the establishment of the modern European metropolis. We will work our way through realistic representations presenting the new urban settings or through fabulous portraits of imaginary cities that will question our own models of ideal city; all the writings we read will link the old world and the new by reminding us the role and the legacy of those ancient European cities.
This course hopes to generate possible answers to the related questions, posed by our authors, of “how does the urban environment meet or disattend expectations of citizens?” (Charles Baudelaire and Walter Benjamin), and alternatively, “what does the architecture of cities tell us about the civilisation itself?” (Pier Paolo Pasolini).
Other questions of this course include: Are there city-types? (Italo Calvino) Do cities have a gender, even? (Virginia Woolf) Can a city be an active character and determine an influence on the fate and psyche of its inhabitants? (Franz Kafka)
Although our main concern will be literary descriptions of modern European cities, we will also consider related topics such as how politics, economy, class, gender, and other factors have an impact in shaping the city, and we will explore literature along with visual representations of the modern urban space through paintings, photography, maps and films.

Learning Outcomes
On completion of the course students should be able to:
- Know major literary works and key authors of modern European literature.
- Understand the relation of those literary works to European society and culture.
- Know core themes and ideas in history and culture.
- Understand and describe literary works as modes of social inquiry representing specific historical and cultural contexts.
- Develop skills in reading, thinking and writing critically through the composition of an academic essay and written homework assignments.
- Develop analytical skills and argue interpretations through class discussions.
- Identify different issues, authors and works of art in a comparative perspective.

Required Textbooks (available at the JFRC Bookstore)
- Calvino, Italo. Invisible Cities.
- Kafka, Franz. The Trial.
- Pasolini, Pier Paolo. The Ragazzi.
- Woolf, Virginia. Mrs. Dalloway.

Additional Readings: A selection of reading material posted on Sakai.
Attendance Policy
One unexcused absence will be permitted. Unexcused absences beyond this will result in a lowering of your final grade. Tardiness to class will also affect your final grade.

Required Work
The course will fulfill its learning outcomes if you comply with the following requirements:

*Reader Responses*: For each new reading you will find a handout on Sakai with a list of topics/questions that we will discuss in class. In order to enhance both your reading and class discussion, you will write down your responses to these questions: choose one or two questions that interest you and address them in a short, informal essay. Include a quotation or two as evidence in support of your claims. These informal meditations are a chance for you to consider the readings before coming to class. As the semester progresses, your responses should become more analytical and offer connections between the works, the authors, and the literary theories. Your Responses will also be useful when writing your final paper. Please, note that I will occasionally collect and grade your Reader Responses.

*Participation*: This course relies largely on class discussion, and the success of discussions depends upon your active presence, thus your presence and contributions are crucial - both to me and to your classmates. To help stimulate class discussions, you should come to class prepared on the assigned readings, and you should participate actively through your Reader Responses. Always bring the assigned text to class. Annotate it with questions and observations before you arrive. If it is a file posted to Sakai, have notes of your comments and page numbers with you. Have the reading in front of you during discussion. I recommend you take notes as we discuss; you will find your notes invaluable when you need to prepare for the quizzes or if you write a paper on the text.

*Textbook (TB)*: The kind of reading we will practice requires marking up a material text, thus electronic textbooks cannot be accepted. You are required to bring your textbook to each class.

*Sakai*: This course will be using Sakai. You are required to check the course site on a regular basis for announcements, readings and assignments posted there.

*Quizzes*: There will be four in-class quizzes on the material covered (multiple-choice questions). Note taking is essential to succeed in the quizzes. The quizzes will be taken as scheduled; there will be no make-ups. Quizzes may be made up only in the event of serious illness and provided a doctor’s letter is presented.

*Final Paper* (6-7 pages): The final essay will show your ability to choose a focused question and thesis to guide your discussion and to follow the conventions for writing about literature. The topic for this paper you must develop on your own but in conjunction with the professor. You may either discuss your topic directly with me (preferred option) or write a one-page proposal that outlines your discussion and bibliography. See the two Handouts on Sakai: Requirements for the Final Paper, for suggestions on choosing a good topic and for detailed instructions on writing your paper; and the handout Resources on Literature, for suggestions on researching your topic. If you decide to write a proposal for your paper, see the handout Paper Proposal on Sakai.

Assessment Components

- Quizzes (4) 40% (or each quiz 10%)
- Final Paper 30%
- Group Presentation 10%
- Attendance 10%
- Participation and Reader Responses 10%
Grading
94-100: A  87-89: B+  77-79: C+  67-69: D+
90-93: A-  84-86: B  74-76: C  60-66: D
80-83: B-  70-73: C-  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.
I expect that all work you produce for this course will be your own, and that you will not submit work you have already completed for other courses. Doing your homework together and submitting the same Reader Responses will be considered plagiarism. Cutting-and-pasting part or all of another person’s writing into your paper or paraphrasing or otherwise copying work without citing the source of the words and ideas, will be considered plagiarism. If you have any questions about using or citing texts, please talk with me.

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.

And finally… Welcome to this class! I find the study of literature both intellectually and emotionally fascinating (as well as a lot of fun), and I look forward to exploring it together. Please do not hesitate to converse with me about the course or the readings throughout the semester, and do not feel that you have to wait until your conference to talk with me about your final paper. As far as possible, I want to make sure the class meets your own academic goals as well as those I have outlined in this syllabus.

Course Schedule

Week 1
Introduction to the course.
Italo Calvino, Invisible Cities.

Week 2 - Paris.
Quiz 1 (Calvino)
Charles Baudelaire, Paris Spleen.
Walter Benjamin, Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century and The Arcades Project.

Week 3 – Prague, London
Quiz 2 (Baudelaire and Benjamin)
Franz Kafka, The Trial.
Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway.
Week 4 – London, Rome
Quiz 3 (Kafka)
Virginia Woolf, Mrs. Dalloway.
Pier Paolo Pasolini, The Ragazzi.
Final paper due.

Week 5
Group presentations.
Quiz 4 (Woolf and Pasolini)