

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SPRING 2012

FR/ITL 396K – *History of the Italian Language*
(Unique 37045)
W 1:00–4:00pm HRH 2.106C

Instructor: Cinzia Russi, HRH 3.110B, russi@mail.utexas.edu
Office hours: T & TH 9:00-10:30, and by appointment

Survey of the development of Italian from spoken Latin to the present day.
Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

The objective of this course is to trace the development of the Italian language from its origins (spoken Latin) to the present day from a language internal perspective (i.e., reviewing and analyzing the main diachronic changes at the phonological, morphological, syntactic and lexical levels) as well as from a language external point of view (i.e., examining social, political and cultural changes). The most important linguistic changes that characterize the evolution of the language will be traced through the analysis of various texts from different stages. Special attention will be given to the linguistic diversity of Italy.

★ **The course will be taught in Italian.**

GRADING POLICY:

- Active class discussion (and critique) of reading assignments (15%)
- Textual analyses (15%)
- Research paper proposal with annotated bibliography (15%)
- Presentation of term paper (15%)
- Final research paper (40%)

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Students **are required** to complete the reading assignments as listed in the syllabus; even when they **are not** presenting, they are expected to come to class **well prepared** in order to be able to participate actively to the class discussion.

TERM PAPER

Students will write a 20/25-page research paper on an aspect of the history of Italian of their choice. The paper will be due on the day scheduled for the final examination. Students are essentially free in the choice of the topic; however, they are strongly encouraged to discuss the topic they choose with the instructor before they start their research.

TEXTS

- Marazzini, Claudio. 2002. *La lingua italiana. Profilo storico*. Bologna: Il Mulino.
- Patota, Giuseppe. 2007. *Nuovi lineamenti di grammatica storica dell'italiano*. Bologna: Il Mulino.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University of Texas Honor Code – The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

- ♠ Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code given above. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.
- ♠ You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give “consulting” help to or receive “consulting” help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of e-mail, e-mail attachment file, diskette, or hard copy.
- ♠ Should plagiarism occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

OTHER UNIVERSITY NOTICES AND POLICIES

1. *Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students* – All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>.
2. *Documented Disability Statement* – Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone). You can refer to the SSD's website for more disability-related information:
http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for_cstudents.php.
 - ♠ Please, notice that faculty **are not required to provide accommodations without** an official accommodation letter from SSD.
 - ♠ Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible (e.g., instructional videos need captioning, course packets are not readable for proper alternative text conversion, etc.).
 - ♠ Please notify me as early in the semester as possible if disability-related accommodations for field trips are required. Advanced notice will permit the arrangement of accommodations on the given day (e.g., transportation, site accessibility, etc.).
3. *Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)* – If you are worried about someone who is acting

differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

4. *Q-drop Policy* – The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6). As stated in Senate Bill 1231:
“Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number.”
5. *Emergency Evacuation Policy* – Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:
 - ♠ Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
 - ♠ If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
 - ♠ In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.
 - ♠ Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by: the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

A WORD ABOUT CONDUCT IN A COLLEGE CLASSROOM

1. To make our time together as valuable as possible, we all have to work hard at it. The following basic principles may give us some guidelines:
 - ♠ Every student has the right to learn as well as the responsibility not to deprive others of their right to learn.
 - ♠ Every student is accountable for his or her actions.
2. In order for you to get the most out of this class, please consider the following:
 - ♠ *Attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time* – Late arrivals and early departures are very disruptive and violate the first basic principle listed above.
 - ♠ *Please do not schedule other engagements during this class time* – You probably wouldn't appreciate it if I did! I will try to make class as interesting and informative as possible, but I can't learn the material for you.
 - ♠ *If you have trouble hearing the lecture or media presentation because of distractions around you, quietly ask those responsible for the distraction to stop* –If the distraction continues, please let me know. It is often impossible for me to hear such things from my position in the classroom.
 - ♠ Please, do not forget to shut off (or at least silence!) your cellular phones during

class and refrain from eating.

- ♠ Please let me know immediately if you have any problem that is preventing you from performing satisfactorily in this class.