COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course divulges into various topics in Italian Culture in order to engage students in a cross-cultural discussion with an emphasis upon the arts, specifically literature and film. Students would be exposed to various facets of Italian culture through these media and would reflect upon both their own backgrounds as well as their expectations/existing knowledge of Italian culture. Students would be afforded the opportunity to examine their own cultural beliefs in the context of another, thereby enriching the overall diverse and multicultural experience at Stony Brook University.

COURSE GOALS

• Move from ethnocentrism towards cultural pluralism vis-à-vis learning how to view other cultures more objectively and viewing their own culture in its richness and complexity.
• Improve critical thinking by developing evaluative, problem-solving, and expressive skills.
• Enhance group communication skills through discussions, small-group work, presentations or debates.
• Develop intellectual curiosity and better understand the role of a student in an academic community.
• Recognize, identify and describe themes paramount to Italian culture (i.e. the significance of the arts throughout the centuries, the importance of the family in modern Italian culture, effects of World War II on Italian society, changes in post-WWII society that have had a tremendous impact on Italian culture).
• Analyze the complexity of Italian culture through reading and examining authentic readings and films.
• Collaborate with classmates in order to review and comment on the significance of aspects of Italian culture, as well as how those aspects compare to one’s own cultural background.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Class Attendance & Participation:** I miss you when you are not here – which is why class attendance is mandatory. Your active participation in class is also required (i.e. willingness to add your point of view to classroom discussions, respond when called upon in class, etc.).
2. **ACH Program Attendance Requirement:** ACH students are required to attend two ACH events during the Spring semester. Students should visit the ACH website (http://www.stonybrook.edu/ucolleges/ach/) for updated information about the events. **University Scholar students are strongly encouraged to attend ACH programs, but are not required. Scholars have their own event requirement, which includes at least one Scholars (for-credit) event and one ACH (for-credit) event per semester, or two Scholars (for-credit) events.**

3. **Required Reading:** All required reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard, either as PDFs or as links to websites where course materials will be obtained. It is absolutely necessary that you complete required reading assignments as they are critical to your understanding of course material to be discussed.

4. **Assignments:** Students will be required to complete the following assignments this semester:

   ▪ **Center for Italian Studies Event & Report:** Attend one event sponsored by the Center for Italian Studies at Stony Brook University and write a three to five page paper reporting about the event. Specific and detailed guidelines will be discussed during Class #2.

   ▪ **Final Paper/Reaction Paper:** Write a three to five page paper regarding your preconceptions and knowledge of Italy and Italian culture, as well as reflect upon your own personal experiences and background. Specific and detailed guidelines will be discussed during Class #1.

   ▪ **Group Project – Presentation:** In groups, students will choose a topic related to Italian culture that interests them, and present that topic to the class. Presentations will take place during the last two class meetings of the semester. Specific and detailed guidelines will be discussed during Class #2.

5. **Spring Commons Day**- All students in a Freshman 102 Seminar are required to attend a Spring Commons Day Event on Wednesday, March 26, 2014. For more information about this day visit: http://ucolleges.stonybrook.edu/spring-commons-day

6. **Computer use:** Students are expected to regularly check Blackboard and their e-mail account for information and correspondence with the instructor and Undergraduate Colleges.

**EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES**

Each Freshman 102 Seminar is a 1-credit course. Students may receive a grade between A-C or a U (Unsatisfactory).

Students will be evaluated on the basis of four graded requirements, totaling 100%.

**Grading practices:** Class Participation (10%) & Attendance (10%) 20%
Center for Italian Studies Event Paper 30%
Reaction Paper 25%
Group Presentation 25%
94 – 100 = A; 88 – 93.9 = A-; 83 – 87.9 = B+; 78 – 82.9 = B; 74 – 77.9 = B-; 70 – 73.9 = C+; 66.0 – 69.9 = C; 65.9 or fewer = U

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at [http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/](http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/)

Bottom line: The consequences for academic dishonesty will always be far worse than simply saying you had help or took a shortcut. *Don’t do it.*

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

**CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT**

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

**COURSE EVALUATIONS**

Stony Brook University values student feedback in maintaining the high quality education it provides and is committed to the course evaluation process, which includes a mid-semester assessment as well as an end-of-the-semester assessment, giving students a chance to provide information and feedback to an instructor which allows for development and improvement of courses. Visit the following link to access the course evaluation system: [http://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/courseeval/](http://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/courseeval/)

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

Email messages, especially emails sent via Blackboard, represent the primary way I will officially communicate with you for this course outside the classroom. It is your responsibility to make sure that you read your email in your official University email account, which is the Google Apps for Education ([http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud](http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud)).
If you choose to forward your official University email to another off-campus account, I am not responsible for any undeliverable messages to your alternative personal accounts. You can set up email forwarding using these DoIT – provided instructions found at: http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/setting-up-mail-forwarding-in-google-mail

If you need technical assistance, please contact Client Support at (631) 632-9800 or email them at supportteam@stonybrook.edu – they will be more than happy to help you!

ACH 102: UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE SEMINAR
11-WEEK SCHEDULE
SPRING 2014

**Please note that this outline may be modified at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate students’ needs and adjust to their progress.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Lecture #1: What is Italy &amp; Italian Culture? Intro. to Dante Alighieri’s La Divina Commedia - Inferno</td>
<td>PowerPoint lecture available to students on Blackboard, Divina Commedia text to be distributed during class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Lecture #2: From Unification to Fascism to WWII and beyond; Why Neorealism?</td>
<td>PowerPoint lecture available to students on Blackboard, reading from Peter Bondanella “Neorealism” also posted on Blackboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>Lecture #3: Neorealism continued; significance of the movement; viewing of Ladri di biciclette (Bicycle Thief)</td>
<td>PowerPoint lecture and ancillary readings available to students on Blackboard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>Lecture #4: Neorealism continued; viewing of Ladri di biciclette (Bicycle Thief), Final thoughts on Neorealism &amp; Impact</td>
<td>PowerPoint lecture available to students on Blackboard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Lecture Topic</td>
<td>Additional Information</td>
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<td>Mar. 4</td>
<td>Lecture #5: The 1950s &amp; 1960s – changes in the Italian cultural landscape; reading &amp; discussion of <em>Marcovaldo</em> by Italo Calvino</td>
<td>PowerPoint lecture available to students on Blackboard. Reading selection from <em>Marcovaldo</em> by Calvino also available on Blackboard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 11</td>
<td>Lecture #6: The 1950s &amp; 1960s – changes (continued); reading &amp; discussion of <em>Marcovaldo</em> by Italo Calvino</td>
<td>PowerPoint lecture available to students on Blackboard. Reading selection from <em>Marcovaldo</em> by Calvino also available on Blackboard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 18</td>
<td>NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>Mar. 25</td>
<td>Lecture #7: The Italian Family – Changes throughout the decades; impact on Italian society and culture; viewing of <em>La Famiglia</em></td>
<td>PowerPoint lecture and ancillary readings available to students on Blackboard.</td>
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<td>Apr. 1</td>
<td>Lecture #8: The Italian Family (continued); viewing of <em>La Famiglia</em> &amp; discussion.</td>
<td>PowerPoint lecture available to students on Blackboard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 8</td>
<td>Lecture #9: The Italian Family (continued); viewing of <em>La Famiglia</em> &amp; discussion.</td>
<td>PowerPoint lecture available to students on Blackboard.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 15</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
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