

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES  
Winter 2017

**Italian 2215G - Exploring Italian Culture**

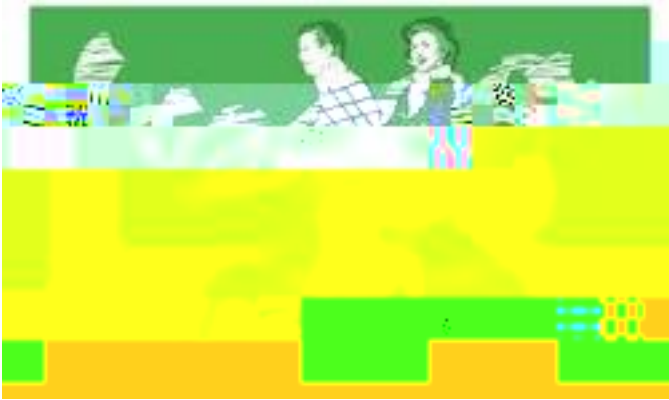


Instructor: Luca Pocci ([lpocci@uwo.ca](mailto:lpocci@uwo.ca)), AHB 3G28E  
Class Time: Mon. 11:30-1:30 & Wed. 12:30-1:30  
Location: TBA  
Office Hours: TBA

**Course content and objectives**

What is it that makes Italy so widely appealing and the boot-shaped peninsula one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world? This question is the point of departure for Italian 2215G, which will take you on a journey of discovery through the extraordinary cultural richness

We will explore the so-called Italian Renaissance in its broad range of expressions: in the masterworks of Italian writers and artists, in classic films, and in music. We will also examine the major role that two iconic expressions of everyday Italian culture, food and fashion, have played in creating typical perceptions and images of Italy. While asking ourselves to what degree are these perceptions typical or stereotypical, we will discuss the most distinctive aspects of contemporary Italian society, including old and new life-styles and political issues (e.g. the economic divide between the North and the South). Special attention will be given to how Italians have historically moved across space. To this end, we will retrace the steps of a famous medieval explorer like



Marco Polo, and those of the millions of Italian immigrants who have enriched the cultural life of Canada and numerous other countries. The objectives that will guide us in our journey through Italian culture are: 1) improve your conversation, reading and writing skills in Italian; 2) build your understanding of the wide-ranging contribution that famous and ordinary Italians have made to global culture; 3) develop your research abilities on a variety of

topics related to the history and culture of Italy.

### **Learning outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course you are expected to be able to:

understand a number of key aspects of Italian and Italian-Canadian culture in a historical perspective

research autonomously a variety of topics related to the culture and history of the Italian people

communicate in spoken and written Italian with enhanced proficiency

engage with a broad array of text types

### **Course requirements**

Oral presentation: 20%

4 writing assignments: 40%

Final exam: 30%

Participation: 10%



taken an antirequisite course. If you are not eligible for the course, you may be removed from it at any time, and it will be deleted from your record. In addition, you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions can not be appealed.

**Other Academic Matters:** [UWO Academic Calendar \(Academic Policies/Regulations\)](#).

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see [Scholastic Offense Policy](#) in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against a possible charge of plagiarism. This also applies to work facilitated or written for students by third parties. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

### Absenteeism:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

[Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness](#)  
[Downloadable Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#)

**Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western** <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University policy regarding missed classes and admission to exams: Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of Registration.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Modern Languages and Literatures courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures website at <http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

