

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Italian 1041 - Italian Theatrical Workshop
Laboratorio Teatrale Italiano
TH 4:00-5:15 CL 202

Fall Term 2004 (05-1)
Prof. F. Savoia
office: CL 1328E
e-mail: savoia+@pitt.edu

Course Objectives

Literature is the principal subject matter for advanced courses in our program as in most programs of second language instruction. The transition from the study of a foreign language to the study of its literature is often a very difficult one: this course has been designed as a third-year Italian course which will serve as a bridge between these two phases of the Italian major curriculum.

The course is based on two major assumptions: 1) that providing second language students with the specific tools that are necessary to think, speak and write about a foreign literature (in the target language), must go hand in hand with accommodating the students' need to increase mastery of the skills acquired in elementary and intermediate language courses, by continuing to actively work on them; 2) that using a broad, interactive, performative approach to literary texts will best help the instructor to do the above.

Course Procedures

In this "Italian Theatrical Workshop" the students, under the instructor's supervision, and working both individually and in groups, will engage in a variety of different and yet closely related and interdependent activities: oral reading, storytelling, role-playing, improvisation, the creation and enactment of their own dialogues and scenarios, the close reading, study, interpretation and performance of pre-existing theatrical texts, and the adaptation to a script and performance of narrative pieces.

A sample of the best products of our activities during the semester will become the *programma* for a final public recital which will be publicized in all Italian classes.

Recommendations

Reading, studying, acting and producing texts will help us break down psycholinguistic barriers which often hamper advanced language acquisition, as well as the understanding and appreciation of a foreign literature. These activities, however, require team work, which, in turn, demands dedication, discipline, mutual respect and trust. It is therefore imperative for you to attend regularly, complete your assignments conscientiously and in a timely fashion, be willing to participate at all times to classroom activities.

Each one of you will also need to make some time for group work outside the classroom: when working with others at a project, not under the instructor's supervision, you must act as a responsible member of the group and do your part.

Work Plan

The first five weeks of the semester (a total of 9 class meetings) will be devoted primarily to: a concise, systematic and practical introduction to the sounds of the Italian language; oral reading (of a wide variety of texts, mostly but not exclusively literary); storytelling (the telling of preexisting or completely original stories, with or without predetermined subject); role-playing and improvisation.

Week 6 through 10 (10 class meetings) will be devoted primarily to: the writing and enactment of original scenarios; the adaptation of preexisting narrative texts to the stage, and their performance; the close reading, analysis and performance of dramatic texts.

Week 11 through 15 (9 class meetings) will be devoted to the selection and preparation of the material to be performed during our final recital. Each student will also be responsible for making a digital movie (using software available in the Language Lab) of an individually created, written and performed monologue/monodrama.

Grading System

Because we will be working mostly as an ensemble, and yet the class work and group work outside of the classroom will ultimately have to generate individual grades, the instructor will keep a good record of each student's contribution. Once every three weeks (four times during the semester) students will have the opportunity to meet with the instructor individually in order to specifically discuss their progress. All of the exercises assigned in the course of the semester – with the exception of the phonetic exercises – are designed so as to have a writing component, and all of these written assignments, in their rough and final drafts, must be collected and presented to the instructor in a portfolio at the end of the semester.

Grading will be based on: **Class attendance and participation (25%), Oral assignments (25%), Written assignments (40%), Individual monodrama (5%) and Final performance (5%).**

Required Texts

Svolacchia, Marco and Ulrike A. Kaunzner. *Suoni, accento e intonazione. Corso di ascolto e pronuncia.* Roma: Bonacci Editore, 2000.

A course packet containing exercises and readings, is available for purchase in the Department main office. Many assignments will require each student to record his/her voice on a cassette: students should therefore purchase one or two blank cassettes at the beginning of classes.

Matters of ethical concern

In carrying on your assignments, in this class as in all others, you have “an obligation to exhibit honesty, and to respect the ethical standards” set by this university. Please, familiarize yourself with the French and Italian Department's policy on plagiarism posted on the department's homepage at <http://www.pitt.edu/~frit>. The University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity can be viewed at <http://www.pitt.edu/HOME/PP/policies/02/02-03-03.html>.

Students with disabilities

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to tell the instructor and/or contact the office of Disability Resources and Services (216 William Pitt Union, 412/648-7890), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodation for this course.