**ITAL 480: Studies in Italian Literature: Digital Manzoni**

Professor Crystal Hall TR: 1:00-2:15

2044E Wescoe Hall Wescoe 4066

[hallc@ku.edu](mailto:hallc@ku.edu) Office Hours: TR 2:30-4:00

785-864-9063 and by appointment

**Course Description**

In Spring 2013 *Italian 480: Studies in Italian Literature* will be an undergraduate digital humanities course based on the first Italian historical novel, Alessandro Manzoni’s *I Promessi sposi* (*The Betrothed*; 1827).Manzoni’s 700-page novel is the story of a young man, Renzo, who must complete an arduous journey through plague-stricken, war-torn northern Italy in order to clear his name and be able to marry his betrothed, Lucia. Their desire for marriage is blocked by judicial, religious, and political figures throughout the novel. Like many authors, Manzoni chose a historical setting in order to comment on his own era. *The Betrothed* lends itself to parallel readings of Manzoni’s fictionalized seventeenth century setting and the history of the early nineteenth century in Italy. Traditional instruction of the book focuses on power struggles, socio-economic changes, and the spirituality of the characters. The plot, narrative elements, linguistic styles, and thematic content also lend themselves to study and analysis using tools available to digital humanists. The course will focus on developing traditional as well as digital skills for literary analysis and the visualization of the results of this analysis. Materials will be available in English and Italian. Discussions and written material will be in English. Reading knowledge of Italian is required.

**Course Goals**

**Literary Goals**

* understand the impact of precedent and tradition on innovation
* recognize the values and the limits of literary criticism
* enter into debate with other literary critics
* defend your own interpretation of the literature

**Digital Goals**

* evaluating the usefulness of existing digital tools for literary analysis
* collecting, organizing, and displaying the results of digital humanities applications
* instructing others on the use of digital humanities tools
* making recommendations for changes and developments to these tools

**Required Books**

Alessandro Manzoni, *The Betrothed*, Penguin Classics edition

Alessandro Manzoni, *I Promessi sposi*, Mondadori Oscar Classici edition

All other course materials will be provided by the professor.

**Course Work**

**Preparation and Participation – 60%**

Participation – 25%

This is a small seminar, so participation in discussions will be essential. Each week we will be developing, refining, and adding a new item to the class website. I will also be asking one person to contribute to the course blog each week. These activities plus attendance will count as the participation grade. (Also, using the computers during class time for class work and not personal work or distraction will be essential.) More than two unexcused absences will lower your final participation grade by 5 points for each additional absence. Tardiness counts toward absences.

Preparation – 35%

As part of class discussions and in preparation for the final project, I will be assigning you different activities to complete to present to the class. These will help us to evaluate tools used in the analysis of literary texts. I will also be assigning reading questions to guide discussions. I will collect these written homework packets four times during the semester. At times these may just be short-answer questions, at other times these could be analytical paragraphs, they may also be responses to readings of criticism, historical documents, or excerpts from Manzoni’s sources.

**Course Portfolio – 40%**

Throughout the semester each student will be working on a digital portfolio related to an early chapter of the *Promessi sposi*. The goal of this portfolio will be to show to other interested students and scholars the results of preliminary application of digital tools and traditional literary analysis to portions of the novel. While the portfolio will focus on one chapter, it should contextualize that chapter within the entire novel, within the historical and literary tradition of Manzoni’s period, within the culture of the novel’s setting, and engage with relevant questions in current Manzoni criticism.

The portfolio should include at the minimum:

A word cloud of the chapter in English and Italian

A spatial representation (a map perhaps) of the content of the chapter

A representation of the differences between the original and the translation

An analysis that addresses a concern in literary criticism

A comprehensive presentation of the connection of this chapter to the course themes

\*The weight of the individual portions of the portfolio will be determined by the class after spring break. \*The components of the portfolio may also change, but that will be subject to class discussion as well.

The final version of the portfolio will be due on May 13 at 4:00pm, the time the final exam for the course would conclude, if we were to have one.

**A quick disclaimer: even though we are working in a digital environment, i m not ur bff. Please remember your etiquette when emailing me or in other communication! Grazie!**

**Assignment Schedule**

22 gennaio Introductions

24 Introduction, Chapter 1

29 Chapter 2

31 Chapter 3

5 febbraio Chapter 4

7 Chapter 5, **Homework Packet 1 due**

12 Chapter 6

14 Chapter 7

19 Chapters 8-9, **Word Cloud due**

21 Chapter 10

26 Chapters 11-12

28 Chapter 13, **Homework Packet 2 due**

5 marzo Chapters 14-15, **Spatial Representation due**

7 Chapter 16

12 Chapters 17-18

14 Chapter 19

19 Spring Break

21 Spring Break

26 Chapters 20-21

28 Chapter 22, **Translation Comparison Due**

2 aprile Chapters 23-24, **Homework Packet 3 due**

4 Chapter 25, Class Meets at Spencer Research Library

9 Chapters 26-27

11 Chapter 28, Class Meets at Spencer Museum of Art

16 Chapters 29-30

18 Chapter 31, **Criticism Analysis Due**

23 Chapters 32-33

25 Chapter 34

30 Chapters 35-36

2 maggio Chapter 37

7 Chapter 38, **Homework Packet 4 due**

9 Presentations of Comprehensive Analysis Due

13 maggio, final portfolio due 4:00pm

Course website: <http://digitalmanzoni.weebly.edu>

Course Blog: [http://www.manzoni.dept.ku.edu/blog](https://mail.ku.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=KTFIUm9Bz0mWt3vQHIGRSPA_R-17wM8InwbSAPbVHIDSM58lVNiQaNqsycFiJotjmhNSUey01n0.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.manzoni.dept.ku.edu%2fblog)

**Preliminary List of Digital Tools:**

<http://voyeurtools.org/>

<http://www.tagxedo.com/>

<http://tagul.com/>

<http://batchgeo.com/>

<http://www.arcgis.com/explorer/>

<http://www.spiderscribe.net/>

<http://prezi.com/>

<http://visual.ly/>

<http://a.nnotate.com/>

<http://titanpad.com>

<http://pinterest.com> eg: <http://pinterest.com/search/?q=romeo+and+juliet>

**Statement on Digital Course Work and Privacy:**

1. The above list of digital humanities tools will likely grow.
2. Some of the resources listed above require the creation of a user account. Where possible, alternative tools can be found through Blackboard if a student does not wish to create an account, but these are limited and may require more work than using the application that requires a new user account.
3. Students are welcome to create accounts or establish user IDs using pseudonyms. The professor will need to know your pseudonym in order to grant credit for coursework.
4. Access to the course website will be restricted while it is in progress during the semester.
5. No grades or evaluation comments will be posted on public sites.
6. Choosing to make the results of your final project visible to the public at the end of the semester will have no impact on your grade for the project or for the course.
7. It is the students’ responsibility to make sure that any images or materials posted to the public version of the course website comply with copyright requirements.
8. Students and the professor are responsible for creating appropriate backup copies of any materials stored online so that in the event of technological difficulty (including forgetting passwords) the material can still be distributed and evaluated.

**Resources available on campus:**

BLACKBOARD: Blackboard is a web-based course management system that allows instructional materials to be easily delivered via the Web. All Italian language classes have Blackboard pages.

<http://ids.ku.edu/docs/Blackboard_Student_Essentials.doc>

[http://courseware.ku.edu](http://courseware.ku.edu/)

Adobe Acrobat Reader can be downloaded free at:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

EGARC: “The Ermal Garinger Academic Resource Center is an academic unit within the Humanities division of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Our mission is to promote the learning and teaching of languages, cultures and humanities at the University of Kansas through the use of technology and other instructional media. In addition to housing a collection of approximately 15,000 audio and video items, the Center contains three computer labs, a media-enhanced conference room, and a soundproofed recording studio. We provide instructors with access to and training in new instructional technologies and support grant and research projects focusing on languages, cultures and the role of technology in the classroom.”

<http://www2.ku.edu/~egarc/>

Check out EGARC’s holdings of Italian music and film!

TUTORS: Information about Italian tutors may be obtained online from the web site of the Academic Achievement & Access Center (<http://www.achievement.ku.edu/tutoring/>) and from the French and Italian Department site (<http://www.frenchitalian.ku.edu/~frenital/undergraduate/italian/tutors/index.shtml>)

ITALIAN TABLE: You are invited to attend the Tavola Italiana held every Thursday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Ingredient’s iBar (947 Massachusetts Street). The Tavola provides a great opportunity to practice what you learn in class in a relaxed atmosphere. Join us and meet other students, instructors of Italian, and members of the Lawrence community who share your interest in Italian language and culture!

**Important (and highly useful) electronic resource:**

[www.garzantilinguistica.it](http://www.garzantilinguistica.it/) – the Italian dictionary at your fingertips, complete with English-Italian and Italian-English definitions, verb conjugations, synonyms, antonyms, and etymologies (also a site that will not spam you once you register).

**UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES**

1. **Religious Observances:**

Where examinations and tests other that final examinations conflict with religious observations of a generally recognized nature, a student under obligation to participate in such religious observances shall, upon request to the instructor involved (which shall be made at least a week in advance of the scheduled examination or test), be accorded the opportunity to take the examination or test at some other time not in conflict with his or her religious obligations.

1. **The department strictly adheres to the following policy on plagiarism and cheating:** "Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses that should be brought to the attention of the Chairperson or Language Coordinator. Whenever a student is caught cheating (whether copying from another student's paper, exam, or quiz, or plagiarizing printed or electronic sources or other sources), the instructor will inform the Chairperson of the Department, who--upon consulting with the instructor--will forward a "CHARGE OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT FORM" to College of Liberal Arts with a recommendation for the appropriate sanction."

**ASSISTANCE WITH ASSIGNMENTS:** Students may use their textbooks, dictionaries, and grammar references in preparing any assignments. However, with the exception of help from the student's instructor and/or in-class activities such as peer editing, **any outside assistance** (that is, tutors, friends, native speakers, computer/internet translation programs, assignments submitted in previous courses, etc.) **is NOT allowed** on homework/assignments being turned in for a grade. **These things are considered cheating and will result in a grade of zero on the assignment, as well as a charge of academic misconduct, which may entail further sanctions.** The student should be certain that all of the work submitted in this course his/her own.

**\*\*ABOUT THE USE OF TRANSLATION PROGRAMS\*\***   
The use of computer or on-line translation programs is **NOT** **permitted** in any French or Italian course and is considered cheating. As opposed to dictionaries and grammar references, these programs are not a learning tool because they simply provide a translation, rather than allowing you to choose among various words/tenses/etc. to come up with the best translation on your own. Moreover, translation programs produce bizarre and incorrect translations that are **notoriously easy to identify**. Students will learn far more by doing their own work than by risking serious academic consequences.

**III. Grade Definitions According to The University Senate Rules and Regulations:**

* + - 1. The grade of A will be reported for achievement of outstanding quality.
      2. The grade of B will be reported for achievement of high quality.
      3. The grade of C will be reported for achievement of acceptable quality.
      4. The grade of D will be reported for achievement that is minimally passing but at less than an acceptable quality.

**IV. Study Time According to The University Senate Rules and Regulations:**

“One semester hour means course work normally represented by an hour of class instruction and two hours of study a week for one semester, or an equivalent amount of work. The concept may vary according to the level at which instruction is offered.”

**V. Withdrawals:**

Students who wish to withdraw from this class must note that they need to do so by the last day of the First Drop Period (February 11), in order for the withdrawal to have no effect on their transcripts.  Withdrawals during the Second Drop Period (February 12 – April 22) will result in a grade of W on the student’s transcript.  No withdrawals will be permitted during the Third Drop Period (after April 22).

**VI. Students with Disabilities:**

"Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss class accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate the educational opportunity."