



McGill

Department of
Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Italian Studies

ITAL 310: The Invention of Italian Literature
3 Credits
Winter 2021

Instructor: Matteo Soranzo

Office: Sherbrooke 688 suite 433

Zoom Session: Thursday 235-355 (live attendance is not mandatory and the session will be recorded and made available on MyCourses)

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Office Hours: I will be available ONLINE for one-on-one consultation by reservation only. To schedule an appointment, please contact me by email with at least a 24 hour notice.

Course Description

In this course, you will read the poem *Dei Sepolcri* by Ugo Foscolo (1778-1827) in the original Italian and learn about its cultural context. In particular, the course will focus on the features and history of literary Italian, while also situating Foscolo's text in a dialogue with other European authors including Giambattista Vico, Thomas Gray and James MacPherson. Completely delivered online, the course will help you improve your knowledge of Italian with special emphasis on how to read, analyze and translate poetry. Also, it will widen your knowledge of Italian history with a special emphasis on the Napoleonic period.



François-Xavier Fabre. *Portrait of Ugo Foscolo*. Florence, National Library, 1813

Required Readings

All the textual and visual sources required for this course are available on MyCourses under the section "Content."

Course Schedule

The course is organized into 11 weekly modules completely delivered online. Each module opens on Sunday evening and is distributed over the following week. It includes:

1. An introduction consisting of a documentary and a quiz.

2. Two interactive reading activities powered by [Perusall](#)
3. A Live session on Zoom at the end of the module as indicated above, and an end-of-module written assignment. The schedule and other contents are available on MyCourses.

Method of Evaluation

Quizzes	30 %
Perusall Discussions	30 %
Assignments	30 %
Attendance and Class Conduct	10 %

N.B. Unsubmitted work is graded with a 0. The two lowest grades earned in each category will not count toward your final grade.

Course Requirements

To facilitate your understanding of the mechanics of this course, the first week will include quizzes, the discussion of [Perusall](#) and a short assignment that are not going to be graded. Although they will not affect your final grade, these activities are meant to make you accustomed to the virtual environment of the course and the weekly routine it entails.

Quizzes (30%)

Each module begins with an introduction comprising a video (film, documentary etc.) in English or Italian and a graded quiz (in English) comprising multiple choice questions, fill in the blank, matching, ordering etc. The quizzes will be accessible for the entire duration of the course. They consist of 10 questions and you will have only 30 minutes once you start working on a specific quiz.

[Perusall](#) Discussions (30 %)

Each module will comprise 2 online group discussions powered by [Perusall](#), that is, a platform for social annotation. Each discussion will be open for 72 hours during which you are expected to read the text under examination, address the instructor's prompts, follow up on the other participants' posts and read the entire conversation. Overall, your performance will be assessed according to the following rubric:

1. Average reading time: you should spend at least 45 minutes examining each text on your own before contributing to the group discussion. (20%)
2. Word count: overall, I expect you to contribute to each discussion with 150-250 words distributed in at least 3 contributions as detailed below. (30%)
3. Quality of your comments: your contribution should include at least three comments, and more specifically one answer to the instructor's prompt, one reply to somebody else's

comment and one question for your group. Your comments should always be polite, pertinent to the item under examination and well informed. (50%)

Assignments (weekly) (30%)

Each assignment will consist of an audio-recording, one question and a translation in English prose of a few lines from Foscolo's *Dei Sepolcri*. Each assignment will be available for 1 week, during which you will have to download the file with the questions, complete them and upload the file on my courses. In case you cannot make it within a week, make sure to contact me as soon as possible but remember that you can have only two extensions during the term. Each assignment will be evaluated according to the following rubric:

1. Factual accuracy: the questions will test your knowledge of a number of facts examined in the module. Accuracy is an important component of your assignment's success. 40%
2. Language: although this is not main the focus of the course, proper use of academic English and standard Italian does matter and I expect you to submit carefully edited assignments. 30%
3. Coherence and structure: the answers need to be written as neatly structured paragraphs. For helpful guidelines on how to formulate claims and structure paragraphs and essays, see W. Booth *et als. The Craft of Research*. 2016 (available online through the McGill library). 30%

Attendance and Class Conduct 10 %

Your attendance will be measured based on your: punctuality in submitting your required course work on time; regularity in examining the materials posted on MyCourses; politeness and professionalism in interacting with the other students enrolled in this class.

STATEMENTS

Fixed Hours of Instruction

This course is for the most part asynchronous. The weekly live session on Zoom takes place on Thursday, 235-355. While your attendance is warmly encouraged, it is not mandatory: the session will be recorded and made available on MyCourses. Each reading activity on [Perusall](#) will be available for 72 hours during which you will have to read the text and contribute with at least 3 posts as detailed below. After 72 hours, the reading material will still be available but you are not going to be able to interact with the rest of the class.

Copyright

© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to

follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Recordings

Live Zoom sessions will be recorded and your image, voice and name may be disclosed to classmates. Note that by remaining in sessions that are being recorded, you are agreeing to the recording. For more information, please read the Guidelines on Remote Teaching and Learning (<https://www.mcgill.ca/tls/instructors/class-disruption/strategies/guidelines-remote>) and the course outline for this course in MyCourses.

Statement on Inclusivity

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures endeavors to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with your instructor and the *Office for Students with Disabilities* (<https://www.mcgill.ca/osd/>): 514-398-6009. Students with a documented disability should contact the OSD as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. This letter should be given to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Please note that it might not be possible to accommodate last minute requests for accommodations.

Statement on Academic Integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information). L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/integrity).

Language Policy In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.