History 300

Title: *The Grand Tour: European culture toward Italian landscape and arts*

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**Course Description:** The course considers the main elements of the Grand Tour and its cultural and political elaborations in Europe, focusing on significant works of artists and writers mostly from 18th and 19th century who travelled to Italy and contributed to establish the aesthetical paradigm of the Italian landscape with its archaeological sites, the cities, the monuments, and the habits of local populations. The previous heritage of Italian humanists to the Grand Tour and its later transformations into pop-culture of modern tourism will be considered.

**Required readings:**


At the beginning of the course other materials will be furnished in a *READER* that includes the sources indicated in the class schedule.

Also students choose one of the following books to read during the semester:

- G. de Stael, *Corinne, or Italy*, Penguin Classics, ISBN 0192825054;

**Class schedule and trips:**

**Week 1:** Before the Grand Tour. Italian humanists and the new cultural paradigm of Italy.


**Week 2:** The Revival of Antiquity in Italy.

*Readings:* CHANEY: Chapter 2: ‘*Quo Vadis*. Travel as Education and Impact of Italy in the XVI century’. *READER:* from Quinn’s *The Hakluyt Handbook*: Parks’s *Tudor Travel Literature*.  
*Trip:* Rome.

**Week 3:** Narrative and Visual Italian Sources. Shakespeare and Italian Art.

*Movie:* *The Merchant of Venice* (Radford, 2004).

**Week 4:** Ruins and the Italian Landscape.

*Readings:* CHANEY: Chapter 8: *Pilgrims to Pictures*; *READER:* from Lassels’s *An Italian Voyage*; from Lorrain’s *The Enchanted Landscape*.  
Week 5: Gardens, cities, and politics.
Readings: READER: from Hunt’s The Italian Garden; from Machiavelli’s Prince; from Moore’s Utopia; from Blomfield’s Architecture in England 1500-1880.
Movie: Elizabeth I (Latham, 2011).
Mid-term paper due.

Trip: Florence.

Week 7: Ancient Art, Archeology, and the Picturesque.
Readings: READER: from Winckelmann’s History of the Art of Antiquity; from Walpole’s The Castle of Otranto; from Hulme & Young’s Travel Writing: Buzard’s The Grand Tour and After (1660 – 1640); from Leopardi’s On the Italians; from Stendhal’s Charterhouse of Parma.
Movie: Dolce far niente (Caranfil, 1998).

Week 8: Women and the Grand Tour.
Readings: READER: from Hulme & Young’s Travel Writing: Bassnett’s Travel Writing and Gender; from Bohls’s Women Travel Writers and the Language of Aesthetics; from Jameson’s Diary of an Ennuyée.
Movie: Room With a View (Ivory, 1986)

Week 9: From the Grand Tour to tourism.
Readings: READER: from Buzard’s The Beaten Track: European Tourism, Literature, and the Ways of Culture 1800-1918; from Lawrence’s Etruscan Places; from Hulme & Young’s Travel Writing: Carr’s Modernism and travel.
Presentations
Final paper due

GRADES
Class participation and Attendance 10%
Oral presentation 15%
Mid-term paper (4-6 pages) 30%
Final paper (8-10 pages) 40%

Mid-term, final essay, and presentation
The mid-term and the final examination will consist of essays that concern topics that have to be previously agreed with the teacher. The topic of the presentation also has to be agreed with the teacher in advance.

ATTENDANCE TO ALL CLASSES IS ESSENTIAL AND MANDATORY. ATTENDANCE TO DISCUSSIONS AND VISITS DURING FIELD TRIP IS ALSO MANDATORY, AND WILL BE AN ESSENTIAL PART FOR THE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION.

GRADE SCALE
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<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
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<th>Pts.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Range</td>
<td>Grade Points</td>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>95-100</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Outstanding Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-94</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Excellent. Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>86-89</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Very good. Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of the subject matter</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>82-85</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Very good</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>75-81</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good. Average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>70-74</td>
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<td>Good</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>66-69</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter</td>
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<td>61-65</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>55-57</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Minimal Pass. Marginal performance generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>54-50</td>
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<td>Minimal pass. Marginal performance, generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Fail. Failure to meet course requirements.</td>
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