

IT334-15 Modern Italian Culture in Dialogue with Europe

20/21

Department

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Fabio Camilletti

Credit value

15

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

N/A not running in 2020/21

This module explores the shaping of Italian intellectuals as well as the shaping of Italian culture and politics within and across the national borders, in relation to the main transnational political and literary movements of the 20th century.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

N/A not running in 2020/21

This module aims to enhance students' understanding of how 20th-century Italian intellectuals have formed their cultural and political identity in dialogue with other European cultures. It will encourage students to reflect upon the shaping of Italian culture and politics outside the national borders, in relation to the main transnational political and literary movements. It will raise awareness of the role of translations and transnational contacts in shaping the relationship between politics and culture in Italy. Students will develop a detailed knowledge of the history of Italian intellectuals in the 20th century, by analysing a wide-range of cultural products, including poems, novels, literary translations, manifestos, editorial correspondence and journals.

This module will allow students to critically reflect on the history of Italian intellectuals in relation to

other European political and literary movements; develop a critical awareness of how 20th century Italian culture has been shaped through translations and transnational relationships; develop a detailed knowledge of the main Italian intellectuals in the 20th century literary field; gain an in-depth understanding of the 20th century Italian literature and history; engage critically with primary texts as well as secondary literature, and develop their analytical and written skills.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week 1: Introduction

Drawing on a historical and sociological perspective, the first session will introduce students to the notion of 'intellectual', and raise their awareness how a transnational, rather than strictly national, perspective can further illuminate the history of intellectuals in Italy.

Week 2: Futurism and European avant-gardes

This session will discuss the relationships between Italian Futurism and the European, mainly French, avantgardes and will look more specifically at the case-studies of Filippo Tommaso Marinetti and Ardengo Soffici.

Week 3: Fascism and the decennio delle traduzioni

The lecture and seminar will look at role of translations and translators during Fascism and will critically discuss the so called 'decennio delle traduzioni' by looking at the translation work of Elio Vittorini and Cesare Pavese.

Week 4: Impegno, Translations and Post-War Journals

This session will discuss the role of post-war journals, and particularly *Il Politecnico* (1945-47), in shaping the notion of impegno through their dialogue with foreign intellectuals.

Week 5: Italian culture and the Cold War

The lecture and seminar will examine how Italian culture was shaped in relation to the dynamics of the Cold War. It will explore in detail the role of the Italian Communist Party and its relationship with publishers (i.e. Feltrinelli and Einaudi) and journal editors, and to what extent it influenced the reception of foreign culture in Italy.

Week 6: Reading week

Week 7: Intellectuals and Mass-culture

The session will look in detail at how intellectuals dealt with mass-culture phenomena by investigating more closely the intellectual and editorial work of Pier Paolo Pasolini and Italo Calvino.

Week 8: 1968 and the neoavanguardia

By looking at the less explored transnational connections of the neoavanguardia, the lecture and seminar will explore the role of Gruppo 63 in relation to the 1968 political and literary turmoil.

Week 9: Post-modern impegno

This session will reconsider the notion of impegno within a post-ideological framework and discuss it in relation to diverse cultural forms, including literary works as well as movies.

Week 10: Final session

This session will critically review the role and developments of Italian intellectuals in shaping the Italian culture from 1910 to 1990s.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- An appreciation of internal diversity and transcultural connectedness in relation to target language culture
- Knowledge of the cultures, communities and societies of the country of the target language(s) gained through the study of written texts and other cultural products in the target language.
- Ability to access, read and critically analyse primary and secondary source materials in target language
- Knowledge and understanding of one or more aspects of the literatures, cultures, linguistic contexts, history, politics, social and economic structures of the country or countries of the target language.

Indicative reading list

Antonello, Pierpaolo and Florian Mussnug, eds. 2009. *Postmodern Impegno: Ethics and Commitment in Contemporary Italian Culture*. Oxford: Peter Lang.

Baranski, Z. G., and R. J. West. 2001. *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Italian Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Bonsaver, Guido. 2000. *Elio Vittorini: the Writer and the Written*. Leeds: Northern Universities Press.

Bosworth, R. J. B. 2010. *The Oxford handbook of fascism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Brogi, Alessandro. 2011. *Confronting America: The Cold War Between the States and the Communists in France and Italy*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press

Burns, Jennifer. 2000. *Fragments of impegno. Interpretations of Commitment in Contemporary Italian Narrative, 1980-2000*. Leeds: Northern Universities Press.

Collini, Stefan. 2010. *Absent Minds. Intellectuals in Britain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Forgacs, D., 1986. *Rethinking Italian fascism: capitalism, populism and culture*. London: Lawrence & Wishart. Francese, Joseph. 2008. 'The Engaged Intellectual: Calvino's Public Self-Image in the 1960s' *Romance Studies* 26 (2): 163-179.

Gentile, Emilio. 1990. 'Fascism as Political Religion.' *Journal of Contemporary History*, 25, 229–251

Gundle, Stephen. 2000. *Between Hollywood and Moscow: the Italian Communists and the Challenges of Mass Culture, 1943-91*. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press

Gundle, Stephen and David Forgacs. 2007. *Mass Culture and Italian Society from Fascism to the Cold War*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press.

Ialongo, Enerst. 2015. *Filippo Tommaso Marinetti: The Artist and His Politics*. Madison: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press.

Körner, A., 2009. *Politics of culture in liberal Italy: from unification to fascism*. New York: Routledge

Morton, A. D., 2003. 'Historicizing Gramsci: situating ideas in and beyond their context.' *Review of International Political Economy*, 10, 118–146

Picchione, John. 2004. *The New Avant-Garde in Italy: Theoretical Debate and Poetic Practices*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Rundle, Christopher. 2010. *Publishing Translations in Fascist Italy*. Bern: Peter Lang

Solovieva, Olga. 'The Intellectual Embodied in His Medium, or the Cinematic Passion of Pier Paolo Pasolini.' *Italian Culture* 29: 52-68

Ward, D. 2001/2. 'Intellectuals, culture and power in postwar Italy.' *The Italianist* 21/22: 291-318.
White, John J., 2010 'Futurism in Europe.' In *The Oxford Handbooks of Modernisms*, ed. by Peter Brooker et al, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

International

All modules delivered in SMLC are necessarily international. Students engage with themes and ideas from a culture other than that of the UK and employ their linguistic skills in the analysis of primary materials from a non-Anglophone context. Students will also be encouraged to draw on the experiences of visiting exchange students in the classroom and will frequently engage with theoretical and critical frameworks from across the world.

Subject specific skills

This module will develop students' linguistic skills through engaging with primary materials in the target language. It will build students' capacity to engage with aspects of Italian culture through analysis of this primary material and through seminar discussion aimed at deeper critical thinking. In particular, students' awareness of modern Italian culture in dialogue with Europe will be enhanced through lectures and seminars which engage in scholarship in the field.

Transferable skills

All SMLC culture modules demand critical and analytical engagement with artefacts from target-language cultures. In the course of independent study, class work and assessment students will develop the following skills: written and oral communication, creative and critical thinking, problem solving and analysis, time management and organisation, independent research in both English and their target language(s), intercultural understanding and the ability to mediate between languages and cultures, ICT literacy in both English and the target language(s), personal responsibility and the exercise of initiative.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (41%)
Seminars	13 sessions of 1 hour (59%)
Total	22 hours

Private study description

Students will be required to read the set texts, prepare for seminars, and carry out independent study and research in order to complete their assignments.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
Essay	80%	
Presentation seminar presentation, max 10 minutes	20%	

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in the course of the module in a number of ways. Feedback should be understood to be both formal and informal and is not restricted to feedback on formal written work. Oral feedback will be provided by the module tutor in the course of seminar discussion. This may include feedback on points raised in small group work or in the course of individual presentations or larger group discussion.

Written feedback will be provided on formal assessment using the standard SMLC Assessed Work feedback form appropriate to the assessment. Feedback is intended to enable continuous improvement throughout the module and written feedback is generally the final stage of this feedback process. Feedback will always demonstrate areas of success and areas for future development, which can be applied to future assessment. Feedback will be both discipline-specific and focussed on key transferrable skills, enabling students to apply this feedback to their future professional lives. Feedback will be fair and reasonable and will be linked to the SMLC marking scheme appropriate to the module.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of UITA-R310 BA in Italian
- Year 4 of ULNA-QR38 Undergraduate English and Italian
- Year 4 of ULNA-RR15 Undergraduate French and Italian
- Year 4 of ULNA-R1A3 Undergraduate French with Italian

- Year 4 of ULNA-RR16 Undergraduate German and Italian
- ULNA-R2A3 Undergraduate German with Italian
 - Year 4 of R2A3 German with Italian
 - Year 4 of R2A3 German with Italian
- Year 4 of ULNA-R4RH Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Italian
- Year 4 of ULNA-R4RL Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Italian
- Year 4 of UITA-R3V2 Undergraduate History and Italian
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3Q2 Undergraduate Italian Studies with Linguistics
- Year 4 of UITA-RQ38 Undergraduate Italian and Classics
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3L4 Undergraduate Italian and Economics (4-year)
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3Q3 Undergraduate Italian and Linguistics
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3WA Undergraduate Italian and Theatre Studies
- Year 4 of UITA-R3T6 Undergraduate Italian with Arabic
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3T6 Undergraduate Italian with Arabic
- Year 4 of UITA-R3T1 Undergraduate Italian with Chinese
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3T1 Undergraduate Italian with Chinese
- UITA-R3W5 Undergraduate Italian with Film Studies
 - Year 4 of R3W5 Italian with Film Studies
 - Year 4 of R3W5 Italian with Film Studies
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3A1 Undergraduate Italian with French
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3A2 Undergraduate Italian with German
- Year 4 of UITA-R3T2 Undergraduate Italian with Japanese
- ULNA-R3T2 Undergraduate Italian with Japanese
 - Year 4 of R3T2 Italian with Japanese
 - Year 4 of R3T2 Italian with Japanese
- Year 4 of UITA-R3R5 Undergraduate Italian with Portuguese
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3R5 Undergraduate Italian with Portuguese
- Year 4 of UITA-R3R7 Undergraduate Italian with Russian
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3R7 Undergraduate Italian with Russian
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3R4 Undergraduate Italian with Spanish
- Year 4 of UFRA-R900 Undergraduate Modern Languages
- Year 4 of ULNA-R9L1 Undergraduate Modern Languages and Economics (4-year)
- Year 4 of ULNA-R9Q1 Undergraduate Modern Languages and Linguistics
- Year 4 of ULNA-R9Q2 Undergraduate Modern Languages with Linguistics
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
- Year 4 of UITA-R3V3 Undergraduate Taught Italian and History of Art
- Italian and Theatre Studies