



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

Ital 405
Petrarch's Canzoniere (RVF)
Winter 2023
MWF 14:00 - 14:50 CHD 419
COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Eleonora Buonocore

OFFICE HOURS: M/W 10:00- 10:50 AM in ChC 320

E-MAIL: Eleonora.buonocore@ucalgary.ca

I will try my best to give a timely response, but as a policy, I will respond to e-mails within 48 hours during weekdays and within 72 hours during weekends

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 403 220 4424

DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on Petrarch's *Rerum Vulgarium Fragmenta*, most commonly known as *Il Canzoniere*, a masterpiece of world literature and a crucial text that lays at the foundation of European culture. The course will analyze Petrarch's poetic production, exploring its different lyrical forms and how they are used to convey different contents. In particular, we will examine Petrarch's poetic exploration of universal themes such as love, art and politics. We will read selections from the *Canzoniere* in order to understand Petrarch's intellectual trajectory and his goals in writing his feelings and thoughts and in inscribing his love story in a poetic framework. We will examine the *Canzoniere's* roots in Classical culture, especially the role Virgil and Ovid as models, as well as the influence of other Italian poets, such as Dante. Students will learn to recognize rhetorical figures and poetic forms, as well as analyze them within a larger literary and historical panorama. We will conclude the course by discussing Petrarch's influence in the larger European context, including the presence of many Petrarchist poets in France, Spain and England.

OBJECTIVES

This course aims to introduce the students to Petrarch's *Rerum Vulgarium Fragmenta*, (*Il Canzoniere*), and to place it in the context of Italian and European History and Literature. The objectives of this course are manifold:

- to explain the context surrounding Petrarch's *Rerum Vulgarium Fragmenta*, and familiarize students with European History of the early Renaissance (XIV c.).
- to explore Petrarch's sources in the Classical tradition, including Virgil and Ovid.
- to provide the students with the tools to recognize Petrarch's poetic style, starting from the poetic forms "sonnet" "canzone" "sestina".
- to analyze the crucial philosophical, political and moral issues at play in the *Canzoniere*, including Petrarch's struggles between his love for Laura and the Christian theological ethics of his times, as well as Petrarch's political stance, and his contribution to Humanism.
- to discern and interpret the new Renaissance concepts of individual and how it Petrarch's poetry contributed to the spreading of both Humanism and the Sonnet form throughout Italy and Europe.
- to recognize poetic forms and rhetorical figures and gain the tool necessary to analyze poetry.

OUTCOMES



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By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Write their own sonnet in a Petrarchan style and analyze it.
- Create short analytic pieces demonstrating their understanding of the principal issues at play in a specific sonnet/ canzone/ sestina of the *Canzoniere* or comparing two poems taken from the *RVF*, or an authentic Petrarch poem with a poem written by a Petrarchist author.
- Identify key issues in the *Canzoniere*, and point out their significance in the context of the collection of poems and of the later influence that Petrarch had in Europe.
- Be able to follow the development of Petrarch's intellectual and moral trajectory throughout the text of the *Canzoniere*, and acknowledge his sources in the Classical and Italian tradition.
- Reach an understanding of the philosophical and theological basis of the *Canzoniere* and how they inform Petrarch's structuring of his lifelong collection of poems.
- Sustain a discussion on the *Canzoniere* and on Petrarch's role in Early Renaissance European Literature and on the importance of Petrarchism as a European poetic movement.
- Be able to present the literary qualities of the Petrarch's poetry as well as the main themes of the *Canzoniere* to an audience and be prepared to reply to questions
- Produce a longer interpretative essay focusing on one or more poems from the *Canzoniere* or on a specific Petrarchan theme/issue as related to the diffusion of Renaissance culture in Europe

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- 1) Petrarca, Francesco, and Robert M. Durling. *Petrarch's Lyric Poems: The Rime Sparse and Other Lyrics*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2001
- 2) Additional material provided in PDF format on D2L.

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

Ovid , *The Metamorphoses*, any edition

Shakespeare, *Sonnets*, any edition

Any textbook of Italian grammar and syntax.

Any good Italian-English, English-Italian dictionary for advanced students.

COURSE NOTES

The course will consist in class readings, writing, and group communicative and interpretative activities: analyses and seminar discussions will be in Italian. Active participation in class will be expected and encouraged. Students will read the text of the *Canzoniere* in Italian and peruse the footnotes to clarify hard points, in addition they might glance at the translation when insecure about the Italian, but they should come to class prepared to discuss the key points of the text in Italian.

Active participation is defined as coming to class prepared to discuss the readings in Italian, and to ask questions about the readings, at least one question for each class period is required.



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Important dates:

- In person class meetings will start on Monday January 9th.
- Term break will be the week of February 19th – 25th.
- The two exams (delivered as a D2L quizzes) will take place on February 13th and March 31st.
- The First writing assignment is due in a dedicated D2L folder by February 10th
- The Research Paper proposal will be uploaded to a dedicated D2L folder by March 10th
- Presentations of the Research Question will take place either in-class or submitted by Video by March 20th.
- The Final Research Paper will be uploaded to a dedicated D2L folder by April 12th.
- In class meetings will end on Monday, April 10th.

Additional Notes

- **First Writing Assignment:** students will write 1 sonnet and short essay of 400/500 words analyzing their sonnet. Their sonnet needs to deal with a topic of their choice among those covered in class (i.e. the principal issues at play in a specific sonnet/ canzone/ sestina of the *Canzoniere* or *RVF*). The assignment will be uploaded to a dedicated D2L folder by February 10th.
- **Research Paper Proposal:** Students will create an abstract with a research question (thesis statement) and some preliminary bibliography, primary and secondary literature that they intend to use to support their statement. The Research Paper Proposal will be uploaded to a dedicated D2L folder by March 10th.
- **Oral/Video Presentations of the Research:** Students will prepare and deliver one 15-minutes in-class or Video presentation about the class material specifically on their chosen research topic, including being prepared to answer other students' questions. If Video it will be submitted to a dedicated folder on D2L by March 20th.
- **Written exams:** they will evaluate students' knowledge of the key themes and the structure of the *Canzoniere* as well as test their understanding of Petrarchist poems/themes. The exams will be administered in the form of a D2L Quiz, which will be timed to 100 mins, but will be available to students for 48 hours. Students will be asked to write a composition and analyze selected passages chosen among those poems of the *Canzoniere* or of the Petrarchist tradition that we read in class.
- **Final paper:** the paper will deal extensively with a theme discussed in class (i.e. focusing on one or more poems from the *Canzoniere* or on a specific thematic issue in the *Canzoniere*). It will involve proving a research question by using primary sources (the *Canzoniere*) and secondary sources (at least 4). The topic will be agreed with the instructor. The paper will have a length of 4/5 pages, in Italian.
- There will be no final examination.
- The Procedure for Course evaluation will be online via a dedicated D2L Link

ASSESSMENT

Active class participation 10% [includes actively participating to class discussions and responding to other students' questions]

1 Written Assignment 10% [Due February 10th on the D2L Folder]



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- 2 Written exams (2 at 15% each) = 30% [both as D2L Quiz- on February 17th and April 3rd]
- 1 Research Paper Proposal 10% [Due March 10th on the D2L Folder]
- 1 Presentation of the Research Question 15% [Due March 20th on the D2L Folder or In Class]
- 1 Final Research Paper 25% [Due April 12th on the D2L Folder]

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-96 A = 95-91 A- = 90-86
B+ = 85-81 B = 80-76 B- = 75-71
C+ = 70-67 C = 66-62 C- = 61-58
D+ = 57-54 D = 53-50 F = 49%-0%

The official grading system (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1) will be applied for the calculation of the final mark

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

Academic misconduct

Academic Misconduct refers to student behaviour which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.



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ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at:

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations> .

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Tower.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops and tablets are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.