

UC 11484 11F

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

APPROVED DEC 7 2011

Undergraduate Council Core Code 81 or

New Course Course Change

Core Category: WI-ID Effective Fall 2012

Graduate/Professional Studies Council

New Course Course Change

Effective Fall 2012

1. Department: MCL College: CLASS

2. Faculty Contact Person: Francesca D.Behr Telephone: 3-3043 Email: fbehrr@mailuh.edu

3. Course Information on New/Revised course:

- Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
ITAL / 3309 / Women Writers and Filmmakers of Modern Italy
- Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.):
ITAL / 3309 / WOMEN WRITERS & FILMMAKERS
- SCH: 3.00 Level: JR CIP Code: 1609020001 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0

RECEIVED OCT 14 2011

4. Justification for adding/changing course: To meet instructional needs of students

5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course? Yes No

If Yes, please complete:

- Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
____ / ____ / _____
- Course ID: _____ Effective Date (currently active row): _____

6. Authorized Degree Program(s): BA Italian Studies

- Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department? Yes No
- Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments? Yes No
- Can the course be repeated for credit? Yes No (if yes, include in course description)

7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: lecture ONLY (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)

8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title
____ / ____ / _____

- Course ID: _____ Effective Date (currently active row): _____

9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)
Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: ENGL 1304. Description (30 words max.): Seminal works of women writers and filmmakers of modern Italy are read and screened in conjunction with current scholarship on Italian modernity and gender studies. Taught in English.

10. Dean's Signature: _____ Date: 10/12/11

Print/Type Name: Sarah Fishman

U N I V E R S I T Y *of* H O U S T O N
CORE CURRICULUM REQUEST FOR COURSES NEW TO THE CORE

Originating Department/College: MCL

Person making request: Francesca D. Behr Telephone: 3-3043

E-mail: fbeh@mail.uh.edu

Dean's signature: _____ Date: Sept. 13, 2011

I. General Information:

Course number and title: ITAL 3309 Women Writers and Filmmakers of Modern and Postmodern Italy

Catalog description must be included on completed CBM 003 form and attached to this document.

Category of Core for which course is being proposed (mark only one):

- Communication
- Mathematics
- Mathematics/Reasoning (IDO)
- American History
- Government
- Humanities
- Visual/Performing Arts Critical
- Visual/Performing Arts Experiential
- Natural Sciences
- Social/Behavioral Sciences
- Writing in the Disciplines (IDO)

II. Objectives and Evaluation (respond on one or more separate sheets):

Call ext. 3-0919 for a copy of "Guidelines for Requesting and Evaluating Core Courses" or visit the website at www.uh.edu/academics/corecurriculum

- A. How does the proposed course meet the appropriate Exemplary Educational Objectives (see **Guidelines**). Attach a syllabus and supporting materials for the objectives the syllabus does not make clear.

The course is aimed at understanding modern and postmodern ideas shaping Italian society and how those ideas have reflected back upon man but especially upon women. Attentive reading and interpretation of creative production by female writers and filmmakers of Modern and Postmodern Italy will form the backbone of the course and will help students to acquire knowledge and understanding about events,

phenomena and trends characterizing 20th and 21st century Italian history and society. Importance will be given to issues and phenomena impacting the lives of women. A constant contextual concern will be how the ideas under study can be considered as products of their time, but also as products of particular persons, in turn we will analyze also the impact of those ideas on our times and their relevance to our own approach to life. Students will be required to write analytical papers/written assignments to present their “findings” in regard to those issues highlighted in the course. Use of evidence (the text/films under consideration/secondary sources), logic, experience, critical reason and coherent argumentation will be the standards upon which all of the written work will be graded. The writing assignments in this course will prepare students to understand philosophical premises and methodological assumptions in the writing or production of different kinds of documents, to assess and employ evidence and arguments in their own research and writing, to read and assess work of professional colleagues as part of the scholarly enterprise. Procedures to allow students to improve their writings and show progress have been implemented (please consult Learning Outcomes and Requirements in the attached syllabus).

- B. Specify the processes and procedures for evaluating course effectiveness in regard to its goals.

The professor will follow Guidelines and IE Procedures already developed by the MCL Department and Italian Studies. Students will receive guidance in analyzing seminal works of modern Italian writers and filmmakers in relation to the broader cultural context of Italian modernity and gender studies. The students will be asked to produce drafts and help evaluate each other’s work in the light of the overall field and its contexts this leading to their final paper.

Student Evaluation of Course

Students will be given a questionnaire about course midway in the semester and at semester’s end. The questionnaire will raise questions about reading assignments, requirements, classroom procedures, etc. Students will also evaluate the course at the end of the semester using the standard evaluation form.

- C. Delineate how these evaluation results will be used to improve the course.

Once the professor has analyzed the data available through IE procedures, syllabus and assignments will be changed to reflect data and improve the course. On the basis of the midterm student evaluation of the course, the professor may consider possible adjustments in the syllabus before semester’s end. No syllabus change can raise the requirements or level of difficulty for the course, or make it less likely for the student to succeed. The final standard evaluation will be used for rethinking the course for the next time it is given.

Women Writers and Filmmakers of Modern and Postmodern Italy (WID)**Instructor: Francesca D. Behr**

The course analyzes works of Italian writers and filmmakers. It explores the historical and cultural factors that shaped the notion of womanhood in 20th and 21st - century Italy, from the celebration of motherhood as women's sole mission to the postwar years with the innovative ideas inaugurated by the feminism movement and beyond. Particular attention will be devoted to the ways in which women writers participated in and reacted to cultural discourses. Novels by Aleramo, De Cespedes, Banti, Sereni, Mazzantini and others will be read and studied, movies by Cavani, Wertmüller, Comencini and Archibugi will be discussed. Conducted in English.

Texts:

Sibilla Aleramo, *A Woman* (orig. 1906 *Una Donna*)
 Grazia Deledda, *The Mother* (orig. 1920 *La Madre*)
 Rosetta Loy, *The Water door* (orig. 1976 *La Porta dell'acqua*; 2006)
 Claudia Sereni, *Keeping House. A Novel in Recipes* (orig. *Casalinghitudine* 1987; 2005)
 Francesca Duranti, *Personal Effects* (orig. 1988 *Effetti Personali*; 1993)
 Margaret Mazzantini, *Do not Move* (orig. 2001 *Non ti muovere*; 2005)

Films:

Liliana Cavani, *Francesco* (1988)
 Lina Wertmüller, *Crystal or Ash, Fire or Wind, as Long as It's Love* (1989)
 Cristina Comencini, *The Beast in the Heart* (2005)
 Francesca Archibugi, *Tomorrow* (2001)

*** Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will learn to analyze Italian literary texts as well as films and respond critically to them. They will learn how to discuss them with competence.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of particular historical periods of Italian history and some of its cultural production.
3. Through class discussion and the writing of written assignments, students will learn to communicate effectively in clear and correct prose as well as in a style appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.

Grade Distribution and Requirements:

- Two in class exams 30% (1)
- Presence and class discussion 30% (2)
- Two take-home assignments paper 40% (3)

- (1) Exams are written in class and test you on the material examined during the time previous to it. They should reflect your knowledge of analyzed primary sources, lectures, and class discussions.
- (2) Students are expected to come to class having already read the assignment for the day and ready to discuss it. It is strongly suggested that they keep notes on what read. Here they should record reactions to the readings (e.g.: short summary; what they think is the most valuable part of the

reading, what is the point of view of the author, is there a “lesson” to be learnt, etc.). It is also strongly suggested that these notes are brought to class.

(3) Student are invited to focus on sections of the material studied throughout the semester and to write 2 written assignments. These assignments (at least 1500 words each) will be prepared at home and they should convey critical understanding of the topic(s) chosen for analysis. Use of evidence (the text/films under consideration/secondary sources), logic, experience, critical reason and coherent argumentation will be the standards upon which all of the written work will be graded. Since instructor will have familiarized students with style sheet, electronic resources and databases necessary to conduct research in this field, paper should reflect knowledge of such resources and be written in the requested style sheet. Primary as well as secondary sources must be quoted and discussed in support of paper’s thesis if fit. Students will submit a draft of assignment (containing selection of topic, selected bibliography on the topic, methodology employed to demonstrate thesis) and receive feedback to be implemented in final version. Papers (and drafts) must be typed, handed to the instructor, and also submitted through Turnitin (<http://www.turnitin.com/static/home.html>).