

# Cover Sheet: Request 11091

## ITA4XXX Animals and Animality in Italian Culture

### Info

Process	Course New Ugrad/Pro
Status	Pending
Submitter	Amberson, Deborah dambers@ufl.edu
Created	9/7/2016 2:42:49 PM
Updated	10/25/2016 1:56:51 PM
Description of request	Exploration of the figure of the animal in modern Italian culture with a focus on the literary and cultural qualities of animal portrait as well as the philosophical and ethical ramifications of these reflections on animality.

### Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Department	Approved	CLAS - Languages, Literatures and Cultures 011686001	Amberson, Deborah		9/7/2016
Deleted 1. ITA 4XXX Animals and Animality in Italian Culture.doc					9/7/2016
College	Recycled	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Pharies, David A	This item has been conditionally approved. Please make the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>transcript title: "Italian Animals" may be misleading; suggest "Animals Ital Cult"</li> <li>rationale: explain "animal question"</li> <li>since this is a 4000-level course, no syllabus is needed, but do transfer required information from the syllabus to the form such as the grading scheme and class policies</li> <li>weekly schedule of topics: need actual topics, not just readings</li> </ul>	10/17/2016
No document changes					
Department	Approved	CLAS - Languages, Literatures and Cultures 011686001	Amberson, Deborah		10/17/2016
No document changes					
College	Approved	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Pharies, David A		10/18/2016
No document changes					

<b>Step</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>User</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Updated</b>
University Curriculum Committee	Comment	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)	Case, Brandon	Added to the November agenda.	10/25/2016
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Pending	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			10/25/2016
No document changes					
Statewide Course Numbering System					
No document changes					
Office of the Registrar					
No document changes					
Student Academic Support System					
No document changes					
Catalog					
No document changes					
College Notified					
No document changes					

# Course|New for request 11091

## Info

**Request:** ITA4XXX Animals and Animality in Italian Culture

**Description of request:** Exploration of the figure of the animal in modern Italian culture with a focus on the literary and cultural qualities of animal portrait as well as the philosophical and ethical ramifications of these reflections on animality.

**Submitter:** Amberson, Deborah dambers@ufl.edu

**Created:** 11/7/2016 3:45:32 PM

**Form version:** 6

## Responses

**Recommended Prefix**ITA

**Course Level** 4

**Number** XXX

**Category of Instruction** Advanced

**Lab Code** None

**Course Title**Animals and Animality in Italian Culture

**Transcript Title**Animals Italy Culture

**Degree Type**Baccalaureate

**Delivery Method(s)**On-Campus

**Co-Listing**No

**Effective Term** Earliest Available

**Effective Year**Earliest Available

**Rotating Topic?**No

**Repeatable Credit?**No

**Amount of Credit**3

**S/U Only?**No

**Contact Type** Regularly Scheduled

**Weekly Contact Hours** 3

**Course Description** Presentation and exploration of the figure of the nonhuman animal in the work of several modern Italian authors and poets. Analysis addresses the literary dimension of the selected animal portraits as well as any philosophical and ethical questions raised by these literary animals. Course taught in Italian.

**Prerequisites** 3 credits of an ITA or ITW course at the 3000 level or above

**Co-requisites** None

**Rationale and Placement in Curriculum** Italy has emerged as one of the centers of contemporary philosophical and literary debates on the ethical, ontological, and political significance of the nonhuman animal. This course is designed to allow students to explore this field both in its artistic and theoretical incarnations, introducing them to key writers and thinkers of modern Italian culture. The course will not only challenge students (Italian majors and minors) with longer and more difficult literary readings in Italian but will also develop their critical thinking skills and their own production (oral and written) in Italian.

**Course Objectives** By the conclusion of the course it is expected that students will:

- understand conventional literary periodization of modern Italian literature (decadentism, futurism, modernism, etc.)
- have a critical familiarity with a sampling of philosophical and ethical writing on animal being and animal dignity
- be able to assess critically literary engagements with the philosophical and ethical consequences and responsibilities of the human relation with animals

- be equipped to give a scholarly presentation in Italian on a particular literary representation of animals or animality
- be in a position to evaluate in writing Italian literary explorations of animal being
- demonstrate improved reading comprehension and analytical skills in Italian through written assignments and presentations.

**Course Textbook(s) and/or Other Assigned Reading** Sampling of readings\*:

John Berger, "Why Look at Animals?," *About Looking* (Vintage, 2011)

Deborah Amberson and Elena Past, "Introduction," *Thinking Italian Animals: Human and Posthuman in Modern Italian Literature and Film* (Palgrave, 2014)

Giacomo Leopardi, excerpts from *Zibaldone di pensieri*.

Umberto Saba, poems: "La capra" e "L'uomo e gli animali"

Giovanni Verga, "Storia dell'asino di san Giuseppe," *Novelle rusticane* (1885)

Gian Paolo Biasin, "Lo zoo di Verga," *Italica* 70.1 (1993): 19-29.

Enrico Cesaretti, "Eco-Futurism? Some Thoughts on Nature, Matter, and Body in Marinetti" (232-246), *Modernism and the Avant-garde Body in Spain and Italy*, (eds.)

Nicolás Fernández-Medina, Maria Truglio (Routledge, 2016).

Federigo Tozzi, excerpts from *Bestie* (Milan: Treves, 1917)

Italo Svevo, "Argo e il suo padrone," *Racconti, saggi, e pagine sparse* (Milan: Dall'Oglio, 1968), 310-328.

Marco Caracciolo, "Three smells exist in this world," *MFS* 60.3 (2014): 484-505

Tommaso Landolfi, "Mani," *Le più belle pagine di Landolfi* (Rizzoli, 1982).

Giovanna Faleschini Lerner, "Contemporaneità and Ecological Thinking in Carlo Levi's Writing," *Thinking Italian Animals* (Palgrave, 2014), 197-214.

Italo Calvino, "Il giardino dei gatti ostinati," *Marcovaldo, ovvero le stagioni in città* (Turin: Einaudi, 1963)

Elsa Morante, excerpts (494-96; 507-11) *La Storia* (Turin: Einaudi, 1974).

Cristina Vani, "Talking Animals "Talking" with Animals in Morante's *La Storia*," *Ecozon@* 7.1 (2106): 42-58.

\*ALL READINGS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS IN ELECTRONIC FORM

**Weekly Schedule of Topics** Week 1: Introduction

Reading: (R) Aforismi e citazioni: la questione animale

8/25 Intro to course; 8/27 Aforismi (discussion)

Week 2: Philosophies of Animals and Animality

Reading: (T) Berger, "Why Look at Animals?"; (R) *Thinking Italian Animals* (1-7)

9/1 Berger; 9/3 *Thinking Italian Animals*

Week 3: Animal Humility and Suffering

Reading: (T) Saba, "La capra" e "L'uomo e gli animali"

9/8 Saba; 9/10 Poem Presentation

Week 4: Animals and Human Ethics

Reading: (T) Leopardi, *Zibaldone* selections

9/15 Leopardi in-class reading; 9/17 Leopardi discussion

Week 5: Instrumentalizing the Animal

Reading: (T) Verga, "Storia dell'asino di san Giuseppe"; (R) Biasin, "Lo zoo di Verga," *Italica* 70.1 (1993): 19-29.

9/22 Verga reading and discussion; 9/24 Biasin discussion

Week 6: Animals, Humans, and Technology

Reading: (T) Marinetti, "All'automobile da corsa"; Cesaretti, "Eco-Futurism? Some Thoughts on Nature, Matter, and Body in Marinetti," 232-246

9/29 Marinetti and futurist cyborgs; 10/1 EXAM 1

Week 7: Uncanny Animals

Reading: (T) Tozzi, *Bestie* (excerpts)

10/6 Tozzi reading: 10/8 Tozzi discussion

Week 8: The Animal Perspective: A Dog's Diary

Reading: (T) Svevo, "Argo e il suo padrone"; (R) Caracciolo, "Three smells exist in this world," MFS 60.3 (2014): 484-505

10/13 Svevo; 10/15 Caracciolo

Week 9: Animals and Horror

Reading: (T) Landolfi, "Mani"; (R) Castaldi, "Word Made Animal Flesh," 75-91.

10/20 Landolfi: ASSIGNMENT: Critical Commentary (Bestie) due; 10/22 Castaldi

Week 10: Animals and Metempsychosis

Reading: (T) Montale, "Clizia a Foggia"

10/27 Montale; 10/29 Montale and Pythagoras

Week 11: Animals and Temporality

Reading: (T) C. Levi, "La mosca bambina"; (R) Lerner, "Contemporaneità and Ecological Thinking in Carlo Levi's Writing," 197-214.

11/3 Levi and the south; 11/5 Faleschini

Week 12: Animals and Urban Space

Reading: (T) Calvino, "Il giardino dei gatti ostinati"

11/10 Racconto due; 11/12

Week 13: Animal Speech

Reading: (T) Morante; La Storia, 494-96; 507-11; (R) Vani, "Talking Animals "Talking" with Animals in Morante's La Storia," 42-58.

11/17 Morante; 11/19 Rationale due

Week 14: Kinship with Animals

Reading: (T) Ortese, "Madri di famiglia" & "Bambini della creazione"

11/24 Ortese and bioegalitarianism; 11/26 Thanksgiving

Week 15: NO READING

12/1 EXAM 2; 12/3 Presentations

Week 16: NO READING

12/8 Presentations

**Links and Policies** Attendance & makeup policy: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for each unexcused absence. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, & military obligation:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to the material covered. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on return to classes. In the case of an excused absence, students can also receive make-up credit for homework preparation by coming to office hours to discuss the assigned readings. Here they will be asked some basic questions concerning the characters, plot, and settings of the relevant readings.

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

A 100-93 (4.0)

A- 92-90 (3.67)

B+ 89-87 (3.33)

B 86-83 (3.0)

B- 82-80 (2.67)

C+ 79-77 (2.33)  
C 76-73 (2.0)  
C- 72-70 (1.67)  
D+ 69-67 (1.33)  
D 63-66 (1.0)  
D- 62-60 (0.67)  
E 59- (0)

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>;  
<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

**Academic Honesty:** Students are required to be honest in their coursework, may not use notes during quizzes or exams, and must properly cite all sources that they have consulted for their projects. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students, and may result in failure of assignment and/or course. For University of Florida's honor code, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources.

**Counseling & Mental Health Resources:** Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

**Online Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide feedback on quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. Evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

### **Grading Scheme** COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. Attendance, Class Participation & Homework Preparation (15%):

Attendance & makeup policy: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for each unexcused absence. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, & military obligation:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to the material covered. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on return to classes.

**Class Participation & Homework Preparation:** homework assignments involve, for the most part, the reading of a relatively short text. You should carry out this work in a concentrated manner, taking notes and jotting down your questions and uncertainties while you read. When you come to class, you should be ready to speak, argue, ask questions, and engage with the opinions of your classmates. Some of the selected readings are quite difficult and will be elaborated in class. Despite these difficulties students should do their best to decipher these texts at home prior to in-class discussion. To ensure that student preparation is as it should be each Tuesday class will begin with some very basic questions on the readings. If you are unable to answer these questions, I will assume that you have not prepared the homework and will dock you 1% of the homework preparation grade. You will lose 1% on each occasion that you prove unable to

answer these basic questions.

2. In-Class Exams (20%): During the semester you will take 2 in-class exams. These will consist of multiple-choice and/or short paragraph answers. Further details will be provided in class closer to the exam dates. Exams are scheduled for: October 1 and December 1.

3. Poem Selection & Presentation (5%): Subsequent to our introductory discussion, you will be expected with a classmate to select a non-Italian poem that addresses in an engaging manner the figure of the animal. You will select this poem and briefly (5 minutes) present and justify your choice to the class on September 10. If your poem is in a language other than English, please provide a translation for the class. You will provide me with a copy of the notes and/or handouts used for your presentation.

4. Explication de texte/Critical Commentary (15%): You will be expected to write a commentary on one new section of Tozzi's *Bestie* chosen from a selection provided in addition to those studied in class. Specifically, you will be expected to choose ONE aphorism or vignette and demonstrate convincingly how the details in this excerpt (lexical, structural, thematic, etc.) serve to illuminate something important about the entire work, the animal question, etc. We will discuss techniques in class. The explication should be approximately 2-2½ pages and should be written in English. The assignment is due on October 20.

5. Racconto (10%): For this creative assignment, you will be expected to write a short story in Italian that, drawing inspiration from the texts on the syllabus, develops a conceptually engaging animal in a manner and style of your choosing. This story should be approximately 3 pages in length and is due on 10 November.

6. Text Selection Rationale (5%): For the final presentation and final paper you will work with a literary text of your choosing. This should be a modern Italian literary text (poem or poetry collection; short story or stories; novel; play; or other) not included on the course syllabus. Your chosen text should provide a particularly engaging presentation of an animal. Your rationale should identify your text and its author as well as providing a clear indication of what precisely makes this text so pertinent. The rationale is due on November 19.

7. Final Presentation (10%): You will be expected to prepare and deliver a presentation in Italian of about 10 minutes in length. Your presentation should revolve around the representation of animality in the text of your choosing. Your presentation should introduce your classmates to the work, explore its representation of animality, and analyze the concepts raised. The presentations are scheduled for December 3 and December 8.

8. Final Paper (20%): You will be expected to write a short paper (at least 5 pages) in Italian. This paper should provide a theoretically oriented analysis of the text you selected for your presentation. However, the paper should not simply be a repetition of your presentation, but should instead provide a more in-depth, theoretically rich, and critically supported consideration of the representation of animality in your text. Final paper should be submitted via email to [dambers@ufl.edu](mailto:dambers@ufl.edu) by 5pm on December 13. Papers must be submitted on the due date unless you have received permission to extend the deadline or unless you have a signed medical excuse explaining your delay. Late papers are penalized and receive no comments. Papers will be graded with regard not only to content and organization, but also to grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Secondary sources, whether textual or web based, must be adequately acknowledged. UNATTRIBUTED USE OF SOURCES WILL EARN YOU AN E FOR THE COURSE.

Final Grade at a Glance:

- Attendance, Class Participation & Homework Preparation, 15%.

- Exams (multiple choice and/or short essay), 20%
- Poem Selection & Presentation, 5%
- Critical Commentary, 15%
- Racconto, 10%
- Text Rationale, 5%
- Final Presentation: 10%
- Final Paper, 20%

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

A 100-93 (4.0); A- 92-90 (3.67); B+ 89-87 (3.33); B 86-83 (3.0); B- 82-80 (2.67); C+ 79-77 (2.33); C 76-73 (2.0); C- 72-70 (1.67); D+ 69-67 (1.33); D 63-66 (1.0); D- 62-60 (0.67); E 59- (0)

**Instructor(s)** Deborah Amberson