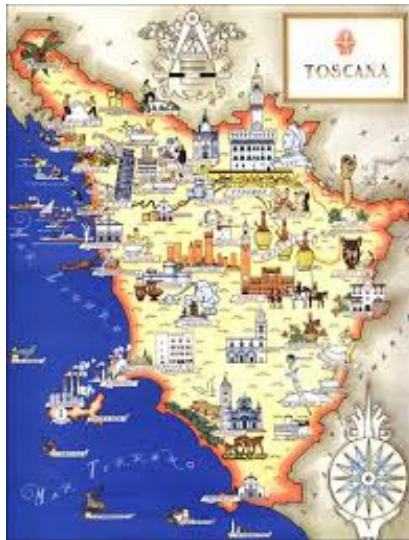


Simona Lorenzini  
[simona.lorenzini@yale.edu](mailto:simona.lorenzini@yale.edu)

Università di Siena  
Presidio San Niccolò, via Roma 56 – Aula ex-cappella

Syllabus for ITAL S-253  
Tuscany between Past and Present:  
A Literary, Historical, Cultural, and Geographical Journey in Tuscany (and beyond)  
Classes: 2:00 to 3:30pm  
Summer 2019



**Course description:**

Known as the cradle of Italian language, Tuscany has always wielded a powerful influence on the imagination of artists, writers, poets, historians, scientists, and bankers well beyond its own regionality.

The course will critically discuss the Tuscan imagery, as expressed in literature, history, art, architecture, science, and folklore, with a special focus on Siena. Our study material will include literary and historical readings, cinematic representations of Tuscany, in-depth tours of the city's monuments and museums, as well as field trips to Florence, San Gimignano, and Livorno. Through a close analysis of different kinds of genres and authors, from poems to satirical magazines, from Giovanni Boccaccio to Giorgio Caproni, the course will explore the richness of the Tuscan cultural history and its influence on the Italian culture tout court, as well as the emergence of the Tuscan language as the standard language of Italy.

As part of the introduction to the art and culture of Siena, there will be a visit at the Siense collection of YUAG in late April (time and date TBD).

## Course schedule:

May 27	M	Introduction to Siena
28	T	Screening of <i>La città ideale</i>
29	W	Film analysis
30	Th	Visit to the Duomo
Jun 3	M	Iconography: Florence: Baptistery and Santa Croce
4	T	Literature: Exile: Dante and Foscolo
5	W	Literature: Politics and Science: Machiavelli and Galileo
6	Th	Visit to the Palazzo Pubblico
7	Fri	Trip to Florence
10	M	Visit to Lo spedale
11	T	History of Language: Latin, Vernacular, and Italian; selections from Petrarch ( <i>RVF</i> )
12	W	Selections from Boccaccio ( <i>Decameron</i> )
13	Th	Visit to Accademia Chigiana
17	M	Visit to the MPS
18	T	Iconography: Rome Art: Michelangelo and Bernini
20-23	Th-Sun	Trip to Rome
24	M	Visit to contrada museum
25	T	Screening of <i>Il Palio</i>
26	W	Film discussion; readings from <i>La terra in Piazza</i>
27	Th	Preparation for the trip to Livorno: <i>Ovosodo</i>
28	Fri	Preparation for the trip to Livorno: Film discussion (in the morning class)
July 1	M	Free day
2	T	Il Palio!
3	W	Preparation for the trip to Livorno: Giorgio Caproni; Il Vernacoliere; selections from Oriana Fallaci
5	Fri	Trip to Livorno
8	M	Visit to Museo dell'opera del Duomo
10	W	Visit to the Bottini (in the morning)
11	Th	Trip to San Gimignano (in the afternoon)
15	M	La Shoah. Una voce femminile: Alba Valech, A 24029
16	T	Visit to Synagogue
17	W	Free day for study

18	Th	Final exam
19	Fri	Presentations of student projects

Text: All readings will be available on *Canvas*

Requirements: Summer courses are by nature intensive, requiring a strong commitment from students in all aspects of the learning experience. The course will be conducted entirely in Italian.

**1. Attendance.** Class attendance is mandatory and will be marked each day. You are allowed a maximum of one (1) absences over the course of the summer. Each absence over one will be counted as a letter grade off your final grade. If you accrue absences over two, you may be removed from the program. Two tardies (five to ten minutes late to class) will count as one absence.

**2. Weekly responses.** You must write a critical response paper on some elements from the material covered during a given week that you have found inspiring or surprising, or you are curious about (150-200 words). Due on Mondays on paper. The essays are to be written in Italian. Please use Times New Roman, 12pt, double-spaced. For late submissions, one point will be counted off the final grade for each additional day beyond the amended due date.

**3. Participation.** Class preparation and participation refers to your willingness to ask and answer questions, your positive attitude when working with others, level of interest in the class, and preparation in advance. It also refers to your respectful and engaged participation into group activities in and outside of Siena.

**4. Final exam.** The final exam will include definitions, identifications, and two short essay questions.

**5. Final project.** On the last day of class, July 19, you are expected to make a presentation on one aspect of your experience in Italy in a joint session of the language and the culture class. The presentation must be paired up with a creative component of your choice (video, art project, powerpoint presentation, etc.), to be agreed upon with the instructors. More information on the final project will be given in class.

#### **6. Grade Breakdown:**

Class participation: 20%

Weekly responses: 45%

Final exam: 20%

Final project: 15%

**N.B.** Failure to receive a passing grade on any one component of the final grade will result in an F for the course.

		B+	87-89.9	C+	77-79.9	D+	67-69.9		
A	94-100	B	84-86.9	C	74-76.9	D	64-66.9	F	0-59
A-	90-93.9	B-	80-83.9	C-	70-73.9	D-	60-63.9		

**7. Plagiarism and academic honesty.** In keeping with the principles of the Yale honor code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not that of another. This includes using online translation programs such as Google Translate or translating online material, such as Wikipedia entries, from English into Italian, or excerpting Wikipedia or Wikipedia.it entries without proper citation. It also includes sharing work or jointly completed work (except as authorized in advance). All violations of these principles will be reported to the Language Program Director and may result in a failing grade for the course and additional disciplinary action by the university.

**8. Electronic devices.** I urge you to refrain from using laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices in class. Personal use of such devices is permitted only in the case of a serious emergency, or for special circumstances discussed with the instructors in advance. Otherwise, the use of electronic devices in class will affect your participation mark.

**9. Feedback.** I welcome your comments and suggestions at any stage of the course. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time, or to use the Feedback function on Canvas, which allows you to leave anonymous feedback for the instructors.