

Italian

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	From Dante to Memes: Italian Satire
Code	ITU44231
Semester	1
ECTS credits	5
Module Coordinator	Contact Inbound Italian Study Abroad Coordinator.

Module Content

This module will trace a history of Italian satire, starting from the origins of this metamorphic ‘non-genre’ in ancient Rome. An introduction on the phallic songs and *satura*, the theatrical performance which gave its name to satire, will show the fundamental elements which distinguish satire, namely variety, of form and content, and the aim to unveil the truth. After a look at the main Roman satirists – Horace and Juvenal –, we will examine fundamental case studies across the Italian tradition. This path will allow us to look at some examples of satiric writing from the Middle Ages to the 19th century, such as Dante, Ariosto, and Leopardi, and then to explore in depth the 20th- and 21st-century context, from an intermedial perspective: literature (Flaiano and Gadda), theatre (Fo), cinema (Moretti and Sorrentino), TV and social media.

Throughout the module we will discuss, starting from our case studies, the different forms which this special ‘non-genre’ takes and we will refer to the main theories of satire elaborated especially in the last few decades. The second lecture will be specifically devoted to an introduction to the theoretical framework, which will then emerge in the module. Textual analysis will be always accompanied by a theoretical approach and a contextual one. Each lecture will also include Q&A sessions and interactive parts. In the seminars, students will work in groups and all together on selected texts and critical bibliography.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

- understand the history of Italian satire from its Latin origins to the present day;
- recognise different forms of satire across different genres and media;



- contextualise satirical texts.

Assessment

30% Oral Presentation

70% Essay