FLIT3044 – Italian Composition  
(Off-Campus Syllabus)

Credit Hours: 3  
Instructor: TBA  
Telephone and E-Mail: TBA  
Virtual Hours: TBA

Required Materials:
Textbooks of Beginning and Intermediate Italian courses can be used as references. In addition a good bilingual dictionary is highly recommended and should be brought to class. The following text, together with hand-outs provided by the instructor and in-class film screenings, are required for this course:

Films to Screen in Class Will Be:
*Caro Diario* (N. Moretti)  
*Storia di ragazzi e ragazze* (P. Avati)  
*L’ultimo bacio* (G. Muccino)  
*Caterina va in città’* (P. Virzi’)  
*Nuovomondo* (E. Crialese)

Date Syllabus Prepared: Spring 2009 for Fall 2009

Course Overview:
This course is for students who have already passed FLIT1020 or equivalent and wish to increase their proficiency in writing. The student will consolidate and improve his/her knowledge of the Italian language through different readings and written practice in class and at home. The student’s written skills will develop through a detailed analysis of the structure of the Italian language. The course will be taught in Italian; the films to screen are in Italian with English subtitles; all writing assignments will be in Italian.

Course Description:
FLIT3044 is a 3-credit hour composed of 15 sessions of instruction and one final exam. In this course, the students will review grammar and practice in writing on topics ranging from descriptions and personal opinions to current affairs and social problems. Each student is required to complete a series of weekly compositions, blog entries, a mid-term exam, and a final comprehensive examination.

Course Topics:
1. How to write a journal entry (present tense)  
2. How to narrate an event (personal occurrence) (past tense)  
3. How to write a short story/rewrite a tale
4. How to write personal/professional letters
5. How to write a persuasive paper
6. How to interpret and express opinions
7. How to write a research paper
8. How to write a speech
9. How to write a book and film review

Course Objectives:
At the end of this course the students will be introduced to Italian culture; they will be provided with opportunities to improve their reading and thinking skills as well as their writing skills by requiring them to discuss social issues (after having read about them and listen to them via the proposed films) as well as to submit weekly written assignments (after having reviewed grammatical concepts and having reworked their drafts).

Course Content:
The on-campus course, FLIT3040, and its distance education counterpart, FLIT3044, are for the larger part identical in form, content, assignments, and materials. There will be a high level of interaction in this course. As for the on-campus students will have real time interaction with peers and instructors, the distance learners will be able to contribute via the many types of communication tools offered by Blackboard/Wimba, i.e. discussion boards, online submissions of assignments, emails among class members and instructors, and blogs. The on-campus and its distance education counterpart activities are selected and assessed in an identical way. Both sets of students will complete textbook assignments, submit online weekly compositions, and participate to discussions on selected themes/films and to specific film screenings. There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam that will be proctored.

Course Requirements:
Weekly Compositions – There will a series of weekly compositions to turn in via the Blackboard assignment tool. The draft will be reviewed by the instructor but not corrected (the instructor will mark errors only in order that it is the responsibility of the students to assess the error and correct it accordingly). Compositions will be based on themes from the various sources used, i.e. textbook, films, and supplementary material provided by the instructor in pdf format, as needed. NO LATE COMPOSITION WILL BE ACCEPTED. Students not completing their compositions on time may lose the privilege to the second writing. The second writing MUST be done within one week. These rules are strictly enforced for pedagogical reasons. There is no learning value in writing more than one composition at the same time to catch up. No more than one new composition may be handed in at one time. All compositions have to be typed and double-spaced. Number of words, themes and due dates will be announced throughout the course, as necessary. The grade will only be given to the corrected version of the composition.

Mid-Term Exam – There will be a proctored exam on week 8. The mid-term exam will consist of two to three essay questions, based on material studied up to that point, to develop. Students will have 50 minutes to complete this exam.
Final Exam – There will be a proctored exam at the end of the course. The examination will test all that the students have learned from the beginning to the end of the course. Students will have 2.5 hours to complete this exam. The exam will be cumulative and will consist of some essay questions and some grammatical exercises as deemed necessary.

Examination Process:
In order to comply with Auburn Distance Education requirements and also to ensure academic honesty during the exam, at the beginning of the course each distance learned will be required to recruit an official proctor, who will be confirmed by the DLOT service staff at Petrie annex (334-844-3106). The proctor must be a school official or an education officer at a military installation who does not have a vested interest in the student’s success in the course. The proctor must have face-to-face access to student to oversee his/her examination, that is to say, the proctor must physically observe the whole examination process. No substitution for the designated proctor will be accepted. Students are expected to get the Examination Proctor Information form properly filled in and signed by the proctor, just before sending it to the DLOT office for verification. Once the proctored exam is over, the proctor signs the proctor form and sends it to the DLOT office. When the proctor form is received by the DLOT, the instructor will be informed and the exam will be graded. Copies of the completed grade report form are distributed to the faculty member, the DLOT office, the Registrar, and the student.

Evaluation Procedures:
Weekly Compositions        40%
Blog entries/discussions  20%
Mid-Term Exam             20%
Final Exam                20%

The final course grade will be determined by the final class average using the scale below:
90% or above        A
80%-89%            B
70%-79%            C
60%-69%            D
Less than 60%       F

Prerequisite and Computer Access Necessary:
A computer with an internet connection is necessary. Speakers and microphones are also necessary. It is essential to have basic computer skills with experience using email, internet, discussion boards, and word-processing software.

Class Parameters and Resources:
The class will be fully web-based. Students should be disciplined and self-motivated since this course is semi-independent. Online students should be aware that the film screenings are to be done on their own, following the schedule. This means that they
should check out the required DVDs from a local library or video store. The instructor will also provide an optional film per theme, in case the first-choice is not available.

**Late Submissions/Make-ups:**
No late submissions and/or make ups are allowed unless a serious situation arises and the student contacts the instructor as soon as possible for special consideration, with a due DOCUMENTED excuse (official, with signature and seal). It is the responsibility of the student to prepare for the course and to keep up with the material.

**Special Accommodations:**
Auburn University is committed to providing accommodations and services to students with documented disabilities. Students who need special accommodations should contact the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) in 1244 Haley Center, Auburn University, Tel.334-844-2096, Fax 334-844-2099, to discuss their situation confidentially. More information is available on their website, [www.auburn.edu/disability](http://www.auburn.edu/disability). The office will fax or mail the required forms to learners to apply for services.

**HONOR CODE:** In this class, as in all classes at AU, the rules of the Honor Code must be observed. Please refer to the recent *Tiger Cub.*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT ITALIAN:**
If you live on campus, take advantage of Channel 32, RAI International. Also, if you are interested in studying in Italy, please contact Dr. Giovanna Summerfield, the director of Taormina, Italy Summer Program ([summegi@auburn.edu](mailto:summegi@auburn.edu)). You can find information about this program on our departmental page, [www.auburn.edu/forlang](http://www.auburn.edu/forlang) (click Study Abroad, then Italy Program). At AU, we also have an Italian Club to further understanding of Italian culture, history, and language. Several activities are planned during the academic year. You are strongly invited to participate. You can earn extra points attending and being active in the Italian Club. Ask your instructor or Dr. Giovanna Summerfield ([summegi@auburn.edu](mailto:summegi@auburn.edu) or 844-6359).

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1 –** Introduction to the course and Free Writing
- Start watching *Caro Diario* by Nanni Moretti
  - Una’ 1-3, *Bar Italia*

**WEEK 2 –** “Caro Diario” How to write a journal entry (present tense)
- 1st composition due on Fri
  - Una’ 4-5, *Bar Italia*

**WEEK 3 –** “La mia storia” – How to narrate something that happened to you
- 2nd composition, due on Fri
  - Una’ 6-8, *Bar Italia*
WEEK 4 – “Raccontami una favola” – How to write a short story/rewrite a tale
(3rd composition, due on Fri)
Start watching Story of Boys and Girls by Pupi Avati
Unita’ 9-10, Bar Italia

WEEK 5 - “Eggr. Sigg….” – How to write professional letters (also personal letters)
(4th composition, due on Fri)
Unita’ 11-12, Bar Italia

WEEK 6 - “Convincimi” – How to write a persuasive paper
(5th composition, due on Fri)
Unita’ 13-14, Bar Italia

WEEK 7 - “Dimmi cosa pensi….,” – How to express an opinion
(6th composition, due on Fri)
Start watching L’ultimo bacio by Gabriele Muccino
Unita’ 15, Bar Italia

WEEK 8 - MID-TERM EXAM
“Dimmi cosa pensano…. “ - How to interpret opinions
(7th composition, due on Fri)
Unita’ 16, Bar Italia

WEEK 9 - Ricerca – How to write a research paper
(8th composition, 1st re-write due)
Start watching Caterina va in citta’ by Paolo Virzi’
Unita’ 17-18, Bar Italia

WEEK 10 - Ricerca – How to write a research paper
(8th composition, 2 re-write)
Unita’ 19, Bar Italia

WEEK 11 - Davanti ad un pubblico – How to write a speech
(9th composition + in class presentation)
Unita’ 20, Bar Italia

WEEK 12 - Recensioni – How to write a book review
(10th composition, due on Fri)
Unita’ 21, Bar Italia
WEEK 13 - Start watching *Nuovomondo* by Emanuele Crialese
Unita’ 22, *Bar Italia*

WEEK 14 - Recensioni – How to write a film review
(11th composition, due on Fri)

WEEK 15 – Conclusions (Reviews for **FINAL**)
27 January 2009

I would like to request permission to add a new online course, FLIT3044 -- Italian Composition, for non-AU students who are in need of advanced Italian classes. This would not create a burden on the department and its personnel, for the online syllabus replicates the on-campus syllabus and will not require additional faculty to instruct these new students. On the contrary, this online course will provide the possibility for the department to be involved in the outreach program and mission of the University and the possibility for new students to benefit from our Italian offerings for their own intellectual growth and/or for their own advancement in their professional careers, i.e. teachers in our area who will need upper-level courses for their teaching certification.

To comply with the policies of the university and to insure a successful planning and completion of this course, I will avail myself of the support of the Office of Distance Learning of Auburn University, as contracted with its director, Dr. Monica DeTure. Communication between the Office of Distance Learning and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will continue throughout the process, until the end of the term when students have completed the course.

I thank you for your collaboration on this new academic venture.

Sincerely,

Giovanna Summerfield
FLIT3044 - Italian Composition  
**Rationale**

Credit Hours: 3  
Instructor: TBA  
Telephone and E-mail: TBA  
Virtual Hours: TBA

**Required Materials:**  
Textbooks of Beginning and Intermediate Italian courses can be used as references. In addition a good bilingual dictionary is highly recommended and should be brought to class. The following text, together with hand-outs provided by the instructor and in-class film screenings, are required for this course:  

**FILMS TO SCREEN IN CLASS WILL BE:**  
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*Caterina va in città’* (P. Virzi’)  
*Nuovomondo* (E. Crialese)

**Date Syllabus Prepared:** Spring 2009 for Fall 2009

**Course Rationale:**  
Writing is the art of creating a work that serves as a personal therapy to record events and individual feelings; it is an important tool to communicate with others, to express one’s own opinion to others or to interpret and analyze others’ opinions; it is also a a form of recorded history and culture and a product of careful technical and social choices; in a more practical sense, writing is a way of recording business transactions and to market one’s ability or product.

The overall objective of this course is to provide the students with all these tools and to sharpen their Italian linguistic, grammatical and cultural knowledge, not only by actively practicing it with writing entries but by listening, reading and discussing specific topics of pertinence.

**Themes Emphasized:**  
Some of the topics of the course are: 1. How to write a journal entry (present tense); 2. How to narrate an event (personal occurrence) (past tense); 3. How to write a short story/rewrite a tale; 4. How to write personal/professional letters; 5. How to write a persuasive paper; 6. How to interpret and express opinions; 7. How to write a research paper; 8. How to write a speech; 9. How to write a book and film
review. These topics are stressed by the themes of the texts, i.e. personal life, traditions, career, social issues and public and private politics., in turn accompanied by pertinent grammatical concepts and communicative contents. Finally, the five films selected for the course will provide a more complete picture of the cultural, linguistic and grammatical context of each theme in order to help the students with their own personal production about the same themes/topics.

**Course Key Goals:**
The key goals of this course are: to provide students with opportunities to improve their reading and thinking skills as well as their writing skills by requiring them to discuss social issues (after having read about them and listen to them via the proposed films) as well as to submit weekly written assignments (after having reviewed grammatical concepts and having reworked their drafts).

**Pedagogy:**
Each set of units (3 or less units) in the course presents fundamental grammatical concepts, specific terminology that is pertinent to a theme/topic which is reiterated by one selected film. Upon completion of each set of units students will have the opportunity to practice the material learned by writing a composition on the topic which requires the terminology and grammatical points covered. The composition serves then to measure the level of learning for each of the learning objectives. Some supplementary tools are available to students on the Blackboard site to practice prior to the composition (final version), to include blogs, discussion boards, and rough draft of the composition itself which is reviewed by the instructor and occasionally by peers.

**Assignments:**
Assignments are the same for both on-campus and distance education students. Students are expected to read critical passages and complete exercises from the textbook (and or supplemental material provided and posted online), view films and participate to film discussions, whether live or via discussion boards, and understand the cultural aspect of each theme.

Students are also asked to write weekly compositions. They will have to write and edit according to markings provided by the instructor. Students will have to consult with the instructor regarding the themes selected for these compositions.

Additionally, students will complete a mid-term and final exam which will prompt to write but also to test their grammar and language proficiency.

**Communication (with instructor and peers):**
Instructor-to-student, student-instructor, and student-to-student communication will take place through the use of electronic mail, telephone, and Blackboard (discussion tools)
Evaluation:
The on-campus and distance education students are identically evaluated. The final grade for this course is determined by completion of weekly compositions (40%), blog entries (20%), mid-term exam (20%) and comprehensive final exam (20%). Letter grade percentages for the course are A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=below 60.

Final Examination Proctor Process:
In order to comply with Auburn Distance Education requirements and also to ensure academic honesty during the exam, at the beginning of the course each distance learner will be required to recruit an official proctor, who will be confirmed by the DLOT service staff at Petrie Annex (334-844-3106). The proctor must be a school official or an education officer at a military installation who does not have a vested interest in the student’s success in the course. The proctor must have face-to-face access to student to oversee his/her examination, that is to say, the proctor must physically observe the whole examination process. No substitution for the designated proctor will be accepted. Students are expected to get the Examination Proctor Information form properly filled in and signed by the proctor, just before sending it to the DLOT office for verification. Once the proctored exam is over, the proctor signs the proctor form and sends it to the DLOT office. When the proctor form is received by the DLOT, the instructor will be informed and the exam will be graded. Copies of the completed grade report form are distributed to the faculty member, the DLOT office, the Registrar, and the student.