

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH, FALL 2020  
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES & LITERATURES  
HUMN\*3400/ITAL\*3400: Renaissance Lovers and Fools  
Dr. Mary DeCoste, mdecoste@uoguelph.ca

---

## COURSE OUTLINE

Prerequisite: for HUMN\*3400: 5.0 credits; for ITAL\*3400: ITAL\*2090.

Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed on the first day of the semester.

In recognition of these extraordinary times, the Fall 2020 offering of this course will focus on Boccaccio's Decameron, written in the immediate aftermath of the 1348 plague that killed about half the population of Florence, Italy. We will read a significant part of the Decameron, focussing our attention on the ways in which the author and his narrators address the upheaval in families and in society more broadly caused by the plague, by erotic desire, and by a changing world. This course will be delivered asynchronously.

Course objectives:

Having successfully completed this course, you will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the central themes of Boccaccio's Decameron
- situate this work within the cultural context of medieval Italy
- communicate what you have learned in short written works and in a longer essay

Your responsibilities:

- to read course assignments with care
- to submit writing assignments when they are due
- to adhere to the University's regulations on academic integrity

My responsibilities:

- to mark and return written work in a timely manner
- to respond to students' requests for assistance with coursework in a timely manner
- to assess all students fairly and equitably

Grades:

short writing assignments: 60%; essay: 40%

Texts:

Boccaccio, Giovanni. The Decameron. Trans. Wayne Rebhorn. Norton & Company, 2013.

(Please note that there are many English translations of The Decameron. This is the one that I consider to be the best and to offer the most engaging reading experience.)

Herlihy, David. The Black Death and the Transformation of the West. Cambridge MA, Harvard University Press, 1997.

## University Statements

### Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

### When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

### Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

### Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

### Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it.

Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

### Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

### Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

### Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>