

Dr. Ann Ciasullo
 ENGL 202: Studies in Fiction
 Gonzaga-in-Florence, Summer 2010

L'ambiente Italiano: Italy as Setting in Literature

English 202, Studies in Fiction, is a course designed to help you continue practicing the skills of critical reading, analysis, and writing to which you were introduced in English 101 and 102—skills that are essential for all college students. Like English 102, this class will require you to read and write on a regular basis and to participate in class discussion and group activities with your classmates. Unlike English 102, this course focuses exclusively on the genre of fiction, with emphasis on the major elements of narrative form, such as plot, character, and point of view. In this section of ENGL 202, we will examine fictional works whose plots unfold in and whose characters move through Italy. Whether they tour Rome in the 19th century, wander through the streets of Venice in the 20th century, or yearn for a room with a view in Florence, the characters we will encounter all have one thing in common: Italy plays an integral role in their journeys toward selfhood.

Required Texts

- E. M. Forster, *A Room with a View*. Cassia Press, ISBN 9781449563035.
- Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*. Scribner, ISBN 9780684801469.
- Patricia Highsmith, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. Vintage Crime, ISBN 9780679742298.
- Henry James, *Daisy Miller*. Dover Thrift Editions, ISBN 9780486287737.
- Several short stories, copies of which will be distributed in a course packet

Course Requirements

Participation and Attendance: Because the success of this class depends primarily on the active participation of all members, your contributions to class discussion will count heavily toward your final grade. Each class meeting, you will have the opportunity to earn a range of 0-3 participation points. If you are absent, or if you show up to class but are checked out in some manner (e.g., sleeping, doing other work, texting, etc.), contribute nothing to the class discussion, or are very late or leave very early, you will earn a zero for the day. If you come to class and contribute a minimal number of comments, or if you arrive late or leave early, you will earn 1-2 points for the day. If you come to class and demonstrate that you have read the assigned text and are active in our discussion, you will earn 3 points for the day. Participation points cannot be made up, so your regular attendance is crucial to your success in this class. Four absences *for any reason* will result in a “V,” which is the equivalent of an “F” on your transcript.

Quizzes: Expect quizzes on a regular basis. These quizzes will be unannounced, will occur at the start of class, and will consist of five questions testing your knowledge of the day’s assigned reading. Quizzes cannot be made up for any reason.

Reading Journals: You will be required to keep a regular reading journal in which you reflect on the stories and novels we’ll be reading. Your reflections will take one of two forms: a response to a question I pose about the text, or a “freewrite” of sorts about the aspects of the reading that you found interesting or troubling. In addition, because many of the assigned stories are set in locations that we will have visited (Rome) or will have the opportunity to visit (Venice), you will complete journal entries in which you reflect upon your own experience of the locale and compare/contrast it to that of the characters we have met. Journal entries will be worth 10 points each; you will complete approximately ten entries over the course of our six-week class. I will collect the journals intermittently and without warning, so make sure you always bring your reflections to class.

Final Exam/Paper: As a class, we will determine how best to assess what you’ve learned in the course: with a final exam or a final essay. Whatever we decide, this assignment will be worth 50 points and will require some sort of synthesis of the materials covered in our six weeks together.

Cell Phones, Laptops, iPods: Most of you carry one or more of these technologies with you every day, but once you enter this classroom, none of them should be a part of our time together. Before class begins, turn them off, put them in your bag, and keep them out of sight. Laptops will not be necessary for note taking. Our

time together is devoted to reading, sharing ideas, listening attentively, and learning collaboratively—tasks that require only your book, pen and paper, your brain, and your undivided attention.

Participation	60 points (3 pts. x 20 days—approximate)
Quizzes	50 points (5 pts. x 10 days—approximate)
Reading Journal	100 points (10 pts. x 10 entries—approximate)
<u>Final Exam/Paper</u>	<u>50 points</u>
Total	260 points (approximate)

Tentative Schedule: I reserve the right to modify the schedule as needed. You are responsible for all changes that may occur, even if you are absent from class.

WEEK ONE

Monday 5/17	Introduction; The Importance of Setting in Fiction
Tuesday 5/18	“Roman Fever,” Edith Wharton
Wednesday 5/19	<i>Daisy Miller</i> part one: “Les Trois Couronnes” (1-27)
Thursday 5/20	<i>Daisy Miller</i> part two: “Rome” (28-59)

WEEK TWO

Monday 5/24	<i>A Room with a View</i> Ch. I-VIII (1-79)
Tuesday 5/25	<i>A Room with a View</i> Ch. IX-XII (79-109)
Wednesday 5/26	<i>A Room with a View</i> Ch. XIII-XVII (110-143)
Thursday 5/27	<i>A Room with a View</i> Ch. XVIII-XX (143-172)

WEEK THREE

Monday 5/31	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i> Ch. I-XV (1-100)
Tuesday 6/1	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i> Ch. XVI-XXI (101-141)
Wednesday 6/2	Holiday—No Class
Thursday 6/3	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i> Ch. XXII-XXIX (142-208)

WEEK FOUR

Monday 6/7	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i> Ch. XXX-XXXVII (209-285)
Tuesday 6/8	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i> Ch. XXXVIII-XLI (289-332)
Wednesday 6/9	<i>A Farewell to Arms</i> , wrapping up discussion
Thursday 6/10	Short stories by Italo Calvino

WEEK FIVE

Monday 6/14	<i>The Talented Mr. Ripley</i> Ch. 1-11 (1-95)
Tuesday 6/15	<i>The Talented Mr. Ripley</i> Ch. 12-14 (96-135)
Wednesday 6/16	<i>The Talented Mr. Ripley</i> Ch. 15-18 (136-177)
Thursday 6/17	<i>The Talented Mr. Ripley</i> Ch. 19-22 (178-210)

WEEK SIX

Monday 6/21	<i>The Talented Mr. Ripley</i> Ch. 23-26 (211-254)
Tuesday 6/22	<i>The Talented Mr. Ripley</i> Ch. 27-30 (255-290)
Wednesday 6/23	Class Wrap-Up
Thursday 6/24	Holiday—No Class
Friday 6/25	Final Exam