



[Rizzoli](#)

[Treccani Sinonimi e Contrari](#)

Reading

During your first year you will be studying four novels, a film, poetry, and reading texts from a variety of sources. You will be expected to develop your skills so that by the third term you can read the primary texts in Italian. You may start reading some Italian short stories with parallel text. There are many available, including the recent *The Namesake*, ed. by Jumpha Lahiri (Penguin, 2024).

2) Literature

In the first year, you will be working on two literature papers, each with prescribed works:

Ø "Modern Italian Narrative and Cinema" (Paper IV):

Prescribed texts (any edition of the following, in Italian; beginners are allowed to read them in translation, in the first instance, but the examination will be based on the original Italian texts):



Italian books can be ordered, among others, at any of these bookshops:

B.H. Blackwell Ltd.

51 Broad Street

Oxford OX1 3BQ

Tel. 01865.792792

www.blackwell.co.uk

Grant & Cutler at Foyles

107 Charing Cross Road

London WC2H 0DT

Tel. 020.74403248

www.grantandcutler.com

The European Bookshop

123 Gloucester Road, Kensington

London SW7 4TE

Tel. 020.72401634

www.italianbookshop.co.uk

See also: www.amazon.co.uk www.unilibro.it www.inmondadori.it www.ibs.it

N.B. Before arriving in Oxford you should have read at least prescribed texts 1) & 2) for the "Modern Italian Narrative & Cinema" paper, and the selected poems from Ungaretti's 'L'Allegria' (included in *Vita d'un uomo: 106 poesie*) and Eugenio Montale's *Ossi di seppia*.

THIS SUMMER

Please note that, for your studies at Oxford to be successful, it is CRUCIAL that you use every long break that precedes a term to read and take notes on all the texts assigned for that coming term. In other words, these intervals are to be considered as reading periods.

Why is this? The terms at Oxford are short (eight weeks), and, each week in term, you will only have time to go back to your notes, re-read certain passages of the set texts, think about your essay questions, consult secondary sources, and write your essays. You won't have any time to do the primary reading properly. If you don't complete this reading during the summer, your first term will be a real struggle and you will be very likely to produce unsatisfactory work. Conversely, you will enjoy the seminars and tutorials and make good progress if you are properly organized and prepared.

NOTE TAKING WHILE READING

It is also important to take notes as you read the set texts. You will need these notes when writing your essays and taking your examinations at the end of the year. If you don't know where to begin, one way to proceed is to prepare for yourself a summary for each set text in which you identify and analyse: 1) the

(political, socio-historical, literary) context in which the text was written; 2) the overall structure of the text, its plot and/or core images (poetry), 3) its treatment of time and space if applicable, 4) characterization if applicable, 5) several key scenes/passages (four to six) that seem important and that

you should close read meticulously, and 6) its uses of form, language, and voice. In addition, you should identify and reflect on several key themes/questions (four to six) that seem prominent across the set texts.

PRACTICALITIES

The University of Oxford often uses a vocabulary of its own to refer to its organisation and members.

A helpful glossary of these terms can be found here:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/history/oxford-glossary?wssl=1>

