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# The Female Character in Italian Contemporary Literature and Culture

PROF. ELEONORA FORNASARI / CARMELA PIERINI

<b>Area of study:</b>	Italian Culture: Literature, Theatre, Cinema, Music, Philosophy and History
<b>Area Code:</b>	LT/AR330
<b>Method of Instruction:</b>	In-person

## Description

The course will provide an insight into the major feminine characters portrayed in Italian literature and culture of the XIX and XX centuries concerning texts and other peculiar forms of Italian arts, such as cinema and opera. Students will have the opportunity to explore different literary archetypes comparing them with contemporary stereotypes of women's role in society, welcoming a comparative approach. From the femme fatale to the "angel of the house", from the disappointed lover to the maternal role, the course will develop an awareness of continuities and differences in representing femininity in contemporary culture with a special focus on the Italian background. Its purpose will be to encourage a critical approach to contemporary society throughout selected material and by involving students' participation.

## Course contents

### Texts:

- "The Betrothed", Alessandro Manzoni;
- "Fosca", Igino Ugo Tarchetti;
- "The troubadour", Giuseppe Verdi –Salvatore Cammarano; "The Tourandot", Giacomo Puccini
- "The Pleasure", Gabriele D'Annunzio;
- "Artemisia", Anna Banti;
- "The Lost Daughter", "The days of Abandonment" Elena Ferrante

### Movies:

- "Rocco e i suoi fratelli" (Luchino Visconti, 1960)
- "La notte" (Michelangelo Antonioni, 1961)
- "Bellissima" (Vittorio De Sica, 1963)

## Prerequisites

None

## Method of instruction

Active, "learn by doing" approach, professional guest speakers and field trips related to the contents of the course. Class discussion. Intersections with other artistic disciplines like cinema, television, theatre and arts. Class readings and assignments.



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#### Exams:

Midterm exam: group presentation to be decided with the professor.

Final exam: theoretical with multiple choice test and text analysis or essay.

## Course requirements

In order to get their credits, students will be required to:

- Attend all classes (unless absent with a medical note)
- Participate actively to the class activities.
- Keep up with the assigned readings and the individual and group assignments. The aim is to let the student acquire a critic approach to literature (in its different expressive forms).
- Pass the midterm and the final exam.

## Credits

6 ECTS

## Grading

Attendance and class participation	20% of final grade
Midterm test	40% of final grade
Final oral exam	40% of final grade

## Course readings and materials

All the readings will be available in a course pack and the lecturer's slides and videos will be available on Blackboard.

## Rules of conduct

Attendance is mandatory (more than two unjustified absences will negatively impact the final grade by half-a-point for each unjustified absence), as well as the punctual reading of the material assigned.

The students are expected to arrive on time, to actively participate in class activities and to read the assigned material. Water, tea or coffee are permitted, but no eating will be permitted in class. Cell phones are to be turned off during class.

Exam date: exam dates communicated in the syllabus for the midterm and final cannot be re-scheduled.

Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. In cases of unforeseeable circumstances such as illness or injury on the day of the exams, the student must submit a medical certificate and communicate his/her absence to the Professor and UCSC International Office via email prior to the exam. If the student does not justify his/her absence through sufficient documentation and with adequate notice before the final test, the student will receive an automatic Fail.

## Instructor bio

**Prof Eleonora Fornasari** holds an MA in International Screenwriting and Production and a Ph.D. from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan, Italy. In her investigation, she has focused on the study of the female character, starting from children's literature. She works as a scriptwriter both for animated TV series (Igum Ogum, Julio Bunny, YoYo, Topo Gigio, The Game Catchers), and live-action shows with RAI, the Italian national broadcaster (Social King 2.0, La TV Ribelle, La Posta di Yoyo, Piccolo Mostro). Furthermore, she is a children's writer and she has published books and novels for different age targets. She is adjunct professor of "Literature, cinema and tv series for kids and young audiences", within the course of Writing



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Production for Animation (LM Language Sciences and Foreign Literature) and assistant professor of “History and Industry of International Cinema”, “Italian Contemporary Literature” and “Italian Grammar”. She also teaches “Digital Journalism and Digital Media in Italy” within the International Curriculum.

**Prof. Carmela Pierini** holds a Ph.D in Italian Studies from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) with a thesis focused on the Italian writer and essayist Anna Banti. Her research focuses on female writing and characters but also the intersections of literature with other disciplines, with specific attention to éckfrasis, connections between literature and advertising, and health humanities. She collaborates with the Catholic University of Milan as Assistant professor for the courses of Italian for Communication, Italian Contemporary Literature and Italian Literature moreover she is a member of the scientific secretary of «Otto/Novecento» and co-directs the prose session of «Il Pietrisco». In addition, with her own company Officinaventuno she works with main publishing houses and companies as CNR, Mondadori and EDUCatt.

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