



UNIVERSITÀ  
CATTOLICA  
del Sacro Cuore

## LT/AR 301 – Writers & Painters, Words and Colours: Italy and the Arts

Prof. PROF. DANIELA PAGANI - PROF. LAURA BELLONI

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is the mystery behind Mona Lisa smile? What is there behind Dante's Hell Gate? What images and ideas hide out in Michelangelo's non-finito? How did politics and entertainment coexist in the writings of the controversial figure of Niccolò Machiavelli? What secrets might unveil the lights and shadows of the rebellious, murderous genius of Caravaggio?

From the Middle Ages to the renaissance, Italy has produced some of the most powerful masterpieces of all times. The words and colours of our great masters have created images that are now part of the cultural heritage of the whole world, and most importantly, that have strongly influenced the course of the Western aesthetic world. The discipline, the creativity, the genuine imagination of Italian artists is everywhere in the territory: from museums to churches, from libraries to academies.

This course intends to make students acquainted with the most important and influential authors of the Italian artistic scene. It will introduce students to the names that have transformed the multitude of Italian dialects into a language, that have merged the ancient myths with modernity: writers such as Dante Alighieri, Giovanni Boccaccio, Niccolò Machiavelli. It will present the painters that have dominated the colour, have given shape to ideas, transformed thoughts into material forms of the sweetest and most powerful features of all times.

### PREREQUISITES

None

### METHOD OF TEACHING

Seminar and professional guest speakers

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance is mandatory (more than two unjustified absences will lower the grade), as well as the punctual reading of the material assigned.

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

1. participate to a group project on a subject to be defined together with the teachers and to be presented shortly before the mid-term exam
2. comment orally in class, before the Final Exam, a 6-10 page paper on one of the texts discussed in class. The paper must be handed in not later than the 9th week.



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The essays must be handed in punctually and in typewritten form (use 12 point Times Roman or similar font of the same size and double space). First impressions count; so do spelling, punctuation, grammar and style

## CREDITS

6 ECTS

## GRADING (TBD)

Attendance and class participation	10%
Group project	15%
Final assignment	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	30%

## COURSE READINGS AND MATERIALS

A packet including all required readings and texts, along with a list of suggested critical texts will be available at the beginning of the course

## INSTRUCTOR BIO

**Daniela Pagani** Doctor of Philosophy in American Literature, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano; Degree in Foreign Language and Literature, Specialization in Information and Social Communication Sciences, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano. She is a free-lance journalist and a writer. At present she works as Head of Publicity for the Italian publishing house Neri Pozza and teaches Anglo-American Literature and Publishing and Journalism at Università Cattolica in Milano.

**Laura Belloni** received her degree in Languages and Foreign Literatures at UCSC in Milan, with a senior thesis on the English Opera, and a PhD in English Drama, with a dissertation on "The Ascent of F6 (1936) and the dramatic theatre of W. H. Auden". She attended courses in American Literature and Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia, in Norwich, UK. After working at Radio24, a national radio, and "Airone" a national magazine, she began teaching and she is currently teaching courses in Comparative Literature and Literature & Drama at the UCSC Department of International Relations. She also teaches Business English at the UCSC Department of Economy. Her current research areas focus on Drama, as well as Comparative Literature. Among her recent publications is "Methods of Illusion. La mise-en-scène from Drama to Fiction and Visual Arts" (Educatt, 2010) and "L'artificio, l'inganno e la seduzione. Elementi metateatrali e illusioni nel teatro italiano tra commedia e opera buffa" (Aracne, 2013).

## E-MAIL ADDRESS

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