



Writers & Painters, Words and Colours: Italy and the Arts

PROF. DANIELA PAGANI / LAURA BELLONI

Area of study:	Italian Culture: Literature, Theatre, Cinema, Music, Philosophy and History
Area Code:	LT/AR301
Method of Instruction:	in-person and live-streaming
Participation:	synchronous/live and asynchronous

Description

What is the mystery behind Mona Lisa smile? What is behind Dante's Hell's 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.

Course contents

Dante Alighieri: Inferno

Giovanni Boccaccio: Decameron

Niccolò Machiavelli: the Tale of Belfagor

Art in the XIV century

The poetry and art of Michelangelo Buonarroti

William Shakespeare

Leonardo da Vinci

Michelangelo Merisi detto 'il Caravaggio'

Prerequisites

None

Method of instruction

Lectures, Seminar

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. Give an oral presentation on one of Boccaccio's short stories from *The Decameron* (see coursepack) to be presented shortly before the mid-term exam.
2. Give an oral presentation on a subject to be defined together with the teachers and to be presented shortly before the final exam.

Credits
6 ECTS

Grading

Attendance and class participation	10% of final grade
Oral presentation 1	15% of final grade
Oral presentation 2	20% of final grade
Midterm exam	25% of final grade
Final exam	30% of final grade

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

Prof. 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.

Prof. 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 went into teaching and she is currently running courses in Comparative Literature and Literature & Drama at the UCSC International Curriculum. She also teaches English at the faculty of Languages and Business English at the UCSC Department of Economy both in UCSC and Università Statale. "*L'artificio, l'inganno e la seduzione. Elementi meta teatrali e illusioni nel teatro italiano tra commedia e opera buffa*" (Aracne, 2013) and "*Il rapimento della sposa. Fughe e rapimenti a lieto fine nel teatro comico e musicale*" (GuidaEditori, 2018).

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