The course, taught in English, offers students a cultural tour of Italy, focusing on some of its most fascinating cities (Naples, Rome, Urbino, Florence, and Venice), seen from a variety of perspectives and a wide spectrum of media (literary texts, photographs, visual artworks, documentaries, and films). We will address select texts spanning from the Middle Ages to today, identifying traces of Italian identity. We will touch upon crucial paradigm shifts and cultural phenomena, such as the Renaissance and modernity. In order to explore these complex dynamics we will discuss works by foreign visitors as well as Italian masterpieces (by Dante, Boccaccio, Michelangelo, Leonardo, Cellini, etc.). The creations of these authors and artists, striving toward aesthetic excellence, illustrate the development of a rich cultural heritage, imbued with a strong sense of historical continuity. Join us! This tour will thrill your mind!