

DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

ITALIAN 622

FASHIONING THE COURT AND CONSTRUCTING GENDER IN EARLY MODERN ITALY

Professor Andrea Baldi
560:622 Thursday, 4:30-7:10 pm
College Avenue, Room # 204
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The course--taught in Italian--will explore the seminal tradition of conduct-books in 16th-century Italy, starting with Castiglione's *Book of the Courtier* (1528), which is the prototype of this literary output. We will look at how these works rely on classical archetypes for paradigms of behavior as well as rhetorical authorization, while founding a modern aesthetics. In this context, we will explore the gnoseological and formal implications of dialogic textual structures. These connections are investigated by Speroni's *Dialogo delle lingue*, which addresses the relationship between ideological projects and linguistic stances.



These writings play a decisive role in codifying behavioral and stylistic models, thus also contributing to the debate on the *questione della lingua*. In examining these cultural and aesthetic constructs, we will devote special attention to the notion of courtly life shaped in a variety of textual genres, from conduct books to pastoral (Tasso's *Aminta*). We will also discuss some revisions of these paradigms, such as Piccolomini's *Raffaella*, Derlla Casa's *Galateo*, and Aretino's dialogues. Expanding the analysis of the fashioning of gender and social roles in Renaissance Italy, we will focus on the notion of women's identity as it is codified in lesser-known treatises, such as Speroni's *Della cura familiare* and Guasco's *Ragionamento a D. Lavinia sua figliuola*. Canonical dictates will be compared to one of the first women's responses to the male-authored tradition, Moderata Fonte's *The Worth of Women*.

Grading is based on:

active participation in class discussions (20%);
discussion of two critical essays and oral presentation of the research paper (20%);
research paper (60%).

Programma del corso

- 5 settembre Introduzione al corso
- 12 settembre Introduzione a B. Castiglione, *Il libro del cortegiano*; I. I, cc. 1-23
T. Greene, "*Il Cortegiano and the Choice of a Game*"
- 19 settembre B. Castiglione, *Il libro del cortegiano*, I. I, cc. 24-56
E. Saccone, "Grazia, sprezzatura e affettazione";
H. Berger Jr. *The Absence of Grace: Sprezzatura and Suspicion* (scelta)
- 26 settembre B. Castiglione, *Il libro del cortegiano*, I. II
V. Finucci, *The Lady Vanishes*, pp. 3-45
- 3 ottobre B. Castiglione, *Il libro del cortegiano*, I. III
V. Finucci, *The Lady Vanishes* (scelta);
D. Quint, *Courtier, Prince, Ladies: The Design of "The Book of the Courtier"*
- 10 ottobre B. Castiglione, *Il libro del cortegiano*, I. IV
D. Javitch, "*Il Cortegiano*" and the Constraints of Despotism;
C. Ossola, *Dal "Cortegiano" all'"Uomo di mondo"*, pp. 131-151
- 17 ottobre Proiezione e discussione del film *Il mestiere delle armi*
- 24 ottobre G. Della Casa, *Il Galateo*, capp. I-XXII
M. Rusnak, "Introduction";
I. Botteri, "Dal *Galateo* ai 'galatei'"
- 31 ottobre G. Della Casa, *Il Galateo*, capp. XXIII-XXX; S. Speroni, *Della cura familiare*
L. Panizza, ed. *Women in Italian Renaissance Culture and Society* (scelta)
- 7 novembre P. Aretino, *Ragionamenti* (scelta)
R. Bell, *How To Do It* (scelta)

- 14 novembre A. Piccolomini, *La Raffaella*; A. Guasco, *Ragionamento a D. Lavinia* (scelta)
M.Galli Stampino, "Alessandro Piccolomini's *Raffaella*"
- 21 novembre Conferenza del Prof. Paolo Fasoli
- 26 novembre M. Fonte, *Il merito delle donne* (scelta)
L. Panizza, ed. *Women in Italian Renaissance Culture and Society* (scelta);
A. Chemello, "La donna, il modello, l'immaginario" (scelta)
- 5 dicembre T. Tasso, *Aminta*
J. Tylus, *Writing and Vulnerability* (scelta);
F. Finotti, *Retorica della diffrazione* (scelta)