



## **16:560:673 - WAR AND EXPERIENCE | TWENTIETH-CENTURY ITALIAN NARRATIVES**

**Thursdays, 4:30pm - 7:10pm in AB-5050**

**Taught by Professor Gambarota | Index: 20697**

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The clash between institutional representations of war (e.g., by government, public media, school) and the lived experiences of war produces the need to make sense of those experiences and to integrate them into public discourse. How was fighting and dying in war legitimized in the twentieth century and what did war mean to those who fought it? This seminar explores the way in which the arts have been used to frame and understand the modern experience of war. Drawing on classic theories (e.g., Benjamin, White, Fussell, Jay Winter, Barthes, Jameson), we will analyze how cultural and formal paradigms interact with lived historical events in memoirs, fictional narratives, poems, postcards, photographs, and films. Our discussion will concentrate on two themes, namely, the relation between experience and representation and the question of the medium: how did different genres and media affect the articulation of the war experience?