



spring 2021 graduate course

# ITALIAN WOMEN WRITERS

in the 19th-21st Centuries

**16:560:643 meets weekly online Mondays 4:30-7:10pm**

**Taught by Professor Andrea Baldi**

The course aims at providing graduate students with a broad knowledge of some of the foremost issues concerning women's writing in relation to the Italian context. For a long time, such questions have been conveniently forgotten or evaded (i.e. repressed and erased) in literary and critical debates, and most of these women writers are still excluded from the canon. Only in recent years the significance of their output has been recognized, in both the American and the Italian intellectual arenas, thus provoking a thorough critical inquiry. This research has led to the reappraisal and in-depth understanding of pivotal works, whose novelty and peculiarity had been ignored, in an attempt at 'normalizing' or silencing these original and disturbing voices.

The seminar will address questions about the specificity of women's writing, about women's writing and difference, and about women's writing as difference. As writing by women is marked by the writers' specific experiences as women -- with a penchant toward autobiographical models --, we will also tackle the cultural and social conflicts these works describe and denounce. Our primary concern will be to explore a historically specific sense of difference by examining how these forms of women's writing thematize, analyze, and articulate difference. The investigation of these issues along chronological lines will also reveal the increasing awareness of the status of women as writers.

Texts by Serao, Marchesa Colombi, Neera, Aleramo, Deledda, Banti, Morante, Ortese, Ferrante, and Scego.

Critical readings by Capodivacca, Cavarero, Della Coletta, Fanning, Re, Rivière, Spackman, Woolf, and others.

Language of instruction: Italian. Most texts are available in English.

Questions? [abaldi@italian.rutgers.edu](mailto:abaldi@italian.rutgers.edu)

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