

Italian 647

Italian Women Writers in the 19th and 20th Centuries

The seminar will focus on works by Neera, Serao, Aleramo, Deledda, Banti, Morante, Ortese, and Ferrante. We 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 often marked by the authors' specific experiences as women – with a penchant toward autobiographical models –, we will also tackle the cultural and social conflicts these works denounce and discuss. Our primary concern will be to explore a historically specific sense of difference by examining the ways in which these forms of nineteenth- and twentieth-century women's writing thematize, analyze, and articulate difference. The progression of these issues along chronological lines will allow a look at different forms of *écriture féminine* and reveal an increasing awareness of the status of women as writers. We will also discuss essays by Benjamin, Butler, Freud, Kristeva, Re, Rivière, and Spackman.