

JEWISH ITALY AND ITS LITERATURES: THE MOST ANCIENT MINORITY



Jews in Italy are often referred to as “the most ancient minority” or “the most ancient of minorities” because of their continuous presence in Italy, from pre-Christian times to today. This course examines the wealth of literature, art, and culture that they have produced and inspired in three parts. In the first part of the course we will discuss a range of works, from antiquity to modern day Italy, to analyze Jewish Italy and its representations. We will scrutinize descriptions of the ghetto, Jewish learning, antisemitism, family life, memory, and the Holocaust in a range of authors. We will focus on three very different Italian cities: Rome, Venice, and Trieste, where we will then travel over Spring Break, the second part of the course. Student expenses (round-trip from Durham) for this **required nine-day excursion** (March 8th-17, 2024) will be covered thanks to a generous gift from the Lauder Family Foundation. In the third part of the course, students will build on their readings and experiences in Italy to develop final research projects that will determine our shared readings for class discussion.

Because places are limited, applicants for the course are required to submit a brief (approximately 300 words) essay on the prompt: “What inspires your interest in taking this course? What experience do you have with studying or traveling overseas?”

Applications are DUE OCTOBER 27th, emailed to the Program Director of Jewish Studies, Serena Bazemore, (serena.elliott@duke.edu)