



It is unthinkable to read the cantos of Dante without aiming them in the direction of the present day. They were made for that. They are missiles for capturing the future. (Mandelstam)

A close reading of Dante's whole poem (Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise) in its philosophical (Plato, Aristotle), theological (Augustine, Aquinas, Catherine of Siena), historical (Papacy vs. Empire, Florentine factionalism), and literary (Virgil, Ovid, Arthurian romance) contexts, as well as an exploration of its influence on later thinkers, artists, poets, and popular culture (Machiavelli, Botticelli, Galileo, Borges, Beckett, Eliot, Rodin, Dahl, 'Sc7en').

professor **MARTIN EISNER** | curriculum codes **CCI, EI, ALP, CZ** | time **TU & TH 11:45-1:00** | Italian 281/582, History 253, Lit 245/582, MedRen 341/603, Religion 262

Italian / Jewish Studies 383S ALP / CZ / CCI / R Saskia Ziolkowski saskia.ziolkowski@duke.edu T/Th 10:05-11:20

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)

RACE AND POWER IN THE RENAISSANCE WORLD
 ITALIAN / ROMST / MEDREN / HISTORY / LIT 89S
 First-Year Seminar | Spring 2024 | T/Th 11:45-1:00 | CZ, CCI
PROFESSOR KATE DRISCOLL
 kate.driscoll@duke.edu



What does power do with and to difference? How does history remember "otherness"? Whose voice reaches what audience(s)? This course ventures into the Renaissance past (ca. 1300-1750) to interrogate these and other related questions. Tracing accounts of travel, exploration, and encounter, we will discuss how the histories and mythologies of race, ethnicity, and difference were constructed, fictionalized, and disseminated across Atlantic and Pacific shores. The parallel histories of expansionism, colonization, science, slavery, and early capitalism will inform our readings of works by Columbus, Machiavelli, Cortés, Marco Polo, Vespucci, Las Casas, Montaigne, Leo Africanus, Olaudah Equiano, and others.

EPIC AS TRANSLATION
 from song to text and back again
 Professor Kate Driscoll
 Spring 2024 | Fulfills ALP, CCI
 ITAL/ROMST/MUSIC 545S/LIT 585S
 Wednesdays 3:30-6:00



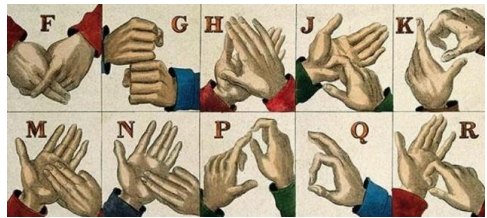
This course invites study of the epic as both a constant and a variable across cultures, contexts, languages, forms, and media. Our principle historical investigation concerns the (re)animation of classical epic in early modern Europe and its transformation in Baroque performance cultures. A wide-ranging and politically inclined genre endowed with an ancient oral inheritance, the epic raises as many questions about nationality and cultural unity as it does about cosmopolitanism, tolerance, and coexistence. If nations and their customs evolve over time, how do epics balance in their sight the past and the present? What factors shape the epic's adaptation to new cultural climates? In what ways do epics sustain their political relevance through acts of intertextuality and intermediality? And what new audience-critics emerge when epics develop from the page to the stage? The class's approach to "epic as translation" juxtaposes the practices of literary imitation as they appear in classical and early modern poetry with the modes of reinvention that transport this literature elsewhere. To this end, "translation" is understood according to a sampling of its many operations. Course conducted in English; students trained in other languages will have the opportunity to read texts in their original language. No extensive musical training required.

SVEVO & WORLD LITERATURE

Italo Svevo (1861-1928) wrote some of the most important modern Italian novels (*Zeno's Conscience* and *Emilio's Carnival*), but has never achieved the world status one might expect, especially for someone who was taught English by James Joyce. Described as "hovering" near international fame, Svevo has been categorized as Italian, Jewish, Triestine, Austrian, German, Modernist, and Transnational. This class examines Svevo in these various contexts to understand the strengths and weaknesses of classifications according to language, religious or cultural background, nation, education, and literary movement. By reading Svevo in the company of other authors, such as Pirandello, Proust, Schmitzler, Kafka, Joyce, Ferrante, and Shakespeare, as well as thinkers like Freud and Darwin, students will explore Svevo's work in detail, while also investigating ideas of literary influence and the meanings of world literature. In English. Questions? saskia.ziolkowski@duke.edu



ITALIAN / JEWISH / GERMAN / ROMANCE STUDIES 378SS / LITERATURE 376S
 Thursdays 3:05-5:35 p.m. Seminar Spring 2024 Codes: ALP, CCI



Italian Sociolinguistics--- ITAL/LING 303S (CCI, CZ, SS, FL)

Spring 2024 Luciana Fellin: fellin@duke.edu

TTH 1:25-2:40 Languages 114B

Course description: This course is designed to give students a panorama of multilingual Italy with an emphasis on communicative practices that characterize contemporary Italian society and interactions between its members. The course adopts a view of language as a social practice and investigates language use from a broad range of social, cultural and historical contexts. Topics include roles and functions of standard Italian and dialects, the characteristics of varieties such as juvenile slang, the language of the media, the language of advertising, politics and bureaucracy; the role of gestures in communication, language as a proxy for discrimination, i.e. sociolinguistics, linguistic sexism, language ideologies and some rules of conversation management used by Italians as contrasted to those typically relied on by American-English speakers. Students will discuss and analyze a variety of spoken, written, and visual texts and will be encouraged to compare and contrast their own experiences with those discussed in readings and class discussions. **The diverse interests and experiences of participating students will be a major strength of this course. Taught in Italian.**

- Course Load:**
- Regular attendance & active participation
 - A midterm
 - Homework (consisting of reaction to the readings through blogs, comprehension questions, or guided class discussion)
 - Two presentations & 2 conversations with speakers in Italy
 - Final project format negotiated with the instructor: Video tutorial/Ted-like talk; Portfolio; Podcast.

Contact me fellin@duke.edu. I'd be happy to hop on Zoom to answer any questions!

Machiavelli and the art of political writing

Explore the writing of Niccolò Machiavelli, a Renaissance thinker whose ideas re-shaped political philosophy. We will discuss both the original meaning and the relevance of Machiavelli's most famous work, *The Prince*. Through close readings and class discussions, we will dissect key concepts of power, statecraft and governance as they were constructed and modified by Italian political thinkers. We will examine samples from Dante, and 20th century political theorist Antonio Gramsci alongside Machiavelli, probing the meaning of *Machiavellian* and re-assessing the contested legacy of his work. By interrogating the use of history and myth in a range of seminal texts, we will form a theory of how power is conceived, exerted, preserved, transferred, abused and lost. Course conducted in Italian. Questions? email nassime.chida@duke.edu

Dr Nassime Chida | TUESDAY-THURSDAY, 3:30-4:45

ITALIAN 327S
 Fulfills CCI, FL, ALP

