

LALI 4792
Online

Fall 2017

Taught In English
No Prerequisites

Italian Women Writers and Feminist Theory
from the Unity of Italy to the Twenty-First Century



Course Satisfies Humanities Requirement

Italian women have often been stereotyped as “Mammas” who cook, pray, and idolize their sons, or as sultry objects of male sexual desire. As writer and actress Franca Rame put it, “all home, bed and church.” But such images do not fully account for the wide variety of experiences and contributions of Italian women throughout history. This course will focus on a close reading of literary and theoretical texts written by Italian women from the late 19th to the early 21st centuries. These works will in turn prompt broader discussion of dramatic shifts in the social, political and economic roles played by women in Italy. The course will encourage students to develop critical reading skills and to explore questions related to the construction of gender in past and present Italian culture and across cultures.

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