

Spring 2018 - Italian Graduate Courses

Subject to change. Please refer to InsideND for the most up-to-date, accurate information.

ROIT 63430-01 – Giacomo Leopardi and the Language of Nature

W 3:30-6:15

S. Ferri

Giacomo Leopardi (1798-1837), one of the most original thinkers of Italian Romanticism, developed a complex and unique philosophy of the natural world that defines his entire intellectual project. The course will focus on Leopardi's understanding of nature as it emerges from his literary and philosophical works. We will address the aesthetic, philosophical, and historical implications of his conception of nature, the way in which it intersects with his practice and theory of literature, and its relation to the environmental and aesthetic paradigms of European Romanticism. Texts will include: Leopardi's major works; selected writings by European Romantic authors; and readings in ecocriticism. Topics of discussion will cover: the contrast between Classical and Romantic models; the Sublime and the Picturesque; materialistic and transcendental conceptions of nature; the relationship between the human and the non-human. The course will be conducted in English, with readings in Italian and English.

ROIT 63750-01 - Italian Modernisms

M 3:30-6:15

J. Welle

This graduate seminar has a dual focus: 1) it provides an introduction to the field of celebrity studies, focusing on its critical paradigms, theoretical frameworks and historical developments; and 2) it examines stardom and celebrity in the Italian context from the late nineteenth century to the present, in relation to the question of Italian modernism. Historical patterns of Italian celebrity culture will be traced in a variety of textual formats, including novels, short stories, plays, films, and journalism. Issues to be analyzed include: the public persona, the transformation of the public sphere; transgression, scandal and notoriety; fandom, the will to celebrity, and the celebrity industry. Requirements include leading class discussions, oral presentations and a final research paper.

ROIT 63957-01- Neoplatonic Controversies in the Fifteenth Century

T 9:00-11:30

D. Robichaud

Neoplatonism is one of the central intellectual movements of the Premodern world. Long part of the fabric of the Middle Ages, Neoplatonism underwent an intense resurgence in the fifteenth century largely because of new translations of late ancient Neoplatonic texts. Through a close examination of a case study, Giovanni Pico della Mirandola's *De ente et uno*, and by reading samples of Pico's sources in (late-) ancient and Medieval philosophy and theology (e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, Proclus, the *Corpus Dionysiacum*, the *Liber de causis*, and Aquinas,) as well as Pico's controversies with fifteenth-century interlocutors (notably with Marsilio Ficino and Antonio Cittadini) this course will survey transformations of various traditions of late ancient Neoplatonism. We will also consider important twentieth-century studies addressing the *De ente et uno* (e.g., writings by Festugière, Garin, Cassier, Heidegger, Gilson, De Lubac, and Beierwaltes). No prerequisites are required for this course, but familiarity with ancient and

medieval philosophy would be useful. No knowledge of Latin and Greek, or modern languages (e.g., Italian, French, and German) is required, but some linguistic training in these languages would be beneficial. Cross-listed with MI 63204