Postwar to Postmodern Italian Fiction
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Italian literary fiction flourished in the four decades following the Second World War. Encompassing a wide range of topics and milieus, from the grubby street world of prostitutes and paupers to the rarefied realm of princes, and rendered in a variety of realist styles—social realism, psychological realism, surrealism, and “magic” realism—these novels and short stories won international acclaim for Italian authors in the turbulent postwar period. This course requires students to read and discuss a book a week (or, if necessary, selections) in English translation. Several short papers and a longer final paper will be assigned.

Sample texts:

Bassani, The Garden of the Finzi-Continis (1962)
Calvino, Invisible Cities (1972)
Eco, The Name of the Rose (1980)
Gadda, That Awful Mess in Via Merulana (1946; 1957)
Ginzburg, Family Sayings (1963)
Lampedusa, The Leopard (1958)
Levi, C., Christ Stopped in Eboli (1945)
Levi, P., If This Be a Man (1956)
Morante, History: A Novel (1974)
Moravia, Woman of Rome (1947) or The Conformist (1951)
Pasolini, Stories from the City of God (1950-66)
Pavese, The Moon and the Bonfires (1950)
Sciascia, To Each His Own (1968)
Silone, Bread and Wine (1955)