

HMAN 2400U

Italian Thought: Inside and Out

Spring 2020, Mondays 3:00-5:30

Prof. Laura Odello and Prof. Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg

Office hours: Odello W 3-5, Rochambeau 311; Stewart-Steinberg M 10-12, Pembroke

The seminar is conceived in two registers: the first as a survey of what Italian Thought has contributed to debates on theory in Italy and abroad (the “In” of our seminar); the second concerns exclusions at work in that same theory (the “out” of our title). The seminar will provide an introduction into the classic texts of Italian thought, beginning with the recent “manifesto” by Roberto Esposito’s *Living Thought*. The seminar will critically engage this proposal not only through a close reading of texts considered a part of the object called “Italian Thought” (Agamben, Cacciari, Cavarero, Esposito, Federici, Fortunati, Gramsci, Muraro, Negri, Rovatti, Tronti, Vattimo). It will also seek to include and make functional other languages excluded from this discourse (feminism, queer theory, psychoanalysis).

Collaboration is a fundamental, indeed structural part of the seminar. Collaborative projects may be completed in one of the three areas:

- 1) **Archives.** Students will be asked to engage with the Pembroke Center Archive, working for example with the Italian feminist Silvia Federici papers. We will invite her to our seminar.
- 2) **Translations.** Students will work together on a number of translations from Italian to English. Native Italian speakers will work with English speakers. The final product will be publishable translations of key texts that will contribute to our body of thought.
- 3) We will produce a **critical glossary** of key terms in Italian Thought. Such glossary will have a website but also could resonate with and merge into other projects at Brown, such as The Political Concepts Project as well as The Virtual Humanities Lab (VHL).

By March 30 students should have selected a project; on May 4 these projects will be presented in seminar; by May 15 the final version of the projects will be handed in as the final requirement for the course.

All registered students are required to attend the Collaborative Public Workshop on Friday, May 1.

Books are on order at the Campus Store and articles and excerpts are available on our Canvas website.

Workload (making up a total of 180 hours): Class time, reading and preparation 120 hours; final project 60 hours.

Reading Schedule

1) January 27th

Introductory remarks.

2) February 3rd

Roberto Esposito, *Living Thought* [2010].

3) February 10th

Mario Tronti, *Our Operaism* [2009]. [Canvas]

Autonomia. Postpolitical Politics. [excerpts on Canvas]

Antonio Gramsci, "Americanism and Fordism," from *The Prison Notebooks* [Canvas]

4) February 24th

Massimo Cacciari, *The Withholding Power* [2013].

5) March 2nd

Pier Aldo Rovatti, "Transformations in the Course of Experience;" Gianni Vattimo, "Dialectics, Difference, Weak Thought," in Rovatti and Vattimo (ed), *Weak Thought* [1983]. [Canvas]

Pier Aldo Rovatti, "Foucault Docet" [2009]; Toni Negri, "The Italian Difference"; Gianni Vattimo, "Nihilism as Emancipation," in *The Italian Difference between Nihilism and Biopolitics* (Chiesa and Toscano eds.) [2009]. [Canvas]

Pier Aldo Rovatti will be present via Skype.

6) March 9th

Adriana Cavarero, *Inclinations: A Critique of Rectitude* [2014].

7) March 16th

Luisa Muraro, *The Symbolic Order of the Mother* [1991].

8) March 30th

Giorgio Agamben, *Stasis: Civil War as a Political Paradigm* [2015]; *Creation and Anarchy. The Work of Art and the Religion of Capitalism* [2017].

9) April 6th

Leopoldina Fortunati, *The Arcane of Reproduction. Housework, Prostitution, Labor, and Capital* [1981]. [excerpts on Canvas]

10) April 13th

Silvia Federici, *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation* [2004].

Silvia Federici will be present.

11) April 20th

Toni Negri, *The Labor of Job. The Biblical Text as a Parable of Human Labor* [1990].

Toni Negri will be present via Skype.

12) April 27th

Conclusions.

13) May 4th

Group presentations

(Reading Period)