Eugenio Montale (1896-1981), winner of the Nobel Prize in 1975, is unanimously recognized for being one of the most important poets of 20th Century. This course is devoted to rereading and discussing a selection of poems from Montale’s main collections: Ossi di Seppia (1925-1928), Le occasioni (1939), La bufera e altro (1956), Satura (1971), Diario del ’71 e del ’72 (1973), Quaderno di Quattro Anni (1977). During the course the great themes of 20th century intellectual-artistic debate will be confronted and much attention will be devoted to Montale’s theoretical and critical writings. The important role that poetry has played in the Western culture, and in Italy in particular during the 20th century, will be part of what the course proposes through an exploration of the most important literary magazines of the first half of the century. Montale’s creation of his own model of poetry and poetics will be the core of the course.

The seminar will be conducted in Italian. Course requirements include one final seminar paper due at the end of the semester and one class presentation. All readings will be on reserve in Bobst Library or will be available as photocopies. The course grade will be broken down as follows: 30% class participation, 70% seminar paper. All paper topics must be discussed with me before active research and writing begins.

Professor Maria Luisa Ardizzone
Mondays, 3:30 - 6:10 PM
Casa Italiana Library