This course is designed to expose students to some of the main trends of the last 50 years of Italian Pop music. The class will investigate the tension between a national identity as expressed by “melodia italiana” and a local identity as expressed by the main regional songwriting schools (Naples, Genoa, Bologna, etc), and will analyze how both notions have been challenged by Anglo-American mainstream and indie markets, and by North-African immigration. By looking at examples ranging from the emancipation of women as full-throatedly proclaimed by such singers as Mina, Patti Pravo, Raffaella Carrà, and Loredana Bertè, to the role of the transgender community in the foundation of Italian Hip Hop, and up to the overtly racial quarrel triggered by the victory of Mahmood over Ultimo at the 2019 Sanremo Festival, this class will also show how artists sometimes reflected changes in the Italian societal norms, sometimes instigated them.