This course will explore the contemporary Italian literary scene and its voices, movements, inspirations and internal diversity. From the “regional” literature to the literature of the new diaspora, from today’s women’s voices to the delineation of new literary trends outside the borders of Italy, this class will focus on the various, rich, complex and often contradictory scene of the 21st century Italian literature and its developing identities. We will read, compare and analyze works by contemporary and modern authors such as Michela Murgia, Amara Lakhous, Dacia Maraini, Paolo Cognetti, Melania Mazzucco, with an eye for thematic convergences, influences, personal voices and narrative styles. The selection of readings is representative of the emergence of a new literary scene that cuts across traditional categories, is strongly influenced by new trends and processes, and represents the changing intellectual, cultural and social landscape of Italy. All discussions and readings are in English, but supplementary readings in Italian will be provided for Italian majors and minors, or students who wish to complete the readings in Italian.