Spring 2018
ITAL UA 173.001
Trial of Galileo
Prof. Karl Appuhn
Room TBD
Mondays, 9:30am-12:15pm
Cross listed as HIST UA 203

This course introduces students to some of the practical and theoretical problems of research and writing in the history of science through a careful study of one of the most famous episodes in that history: The trial of Galileo Galilei. In the first half of the course you will read and write about some of Galileo’s works on astronomy and physics, as well as the key documents from his two trials before the Roman Inquisition. In the second half you will read and write about a selection of reactions to the second trial as a way of exploring problems of historical interpretation. You will study the responses of Galileo’s contemporaries, as well as eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth-century interpretations of the trial—including Bertolt Brecht’s play Galileo and two recent works by historians of science.