This course aims to provide graduate students and advanced undergraduates with a foundation in theoretical approaches to Italian literary studies. The semester will be divided into five units, each dedicated to one major area of theoretical inquiry in Italian Studies as it is practiced in the United States today.

During the Spring 2020 semester, we will focus on gender, ideology, affect, waste, and biopolitics. We will use literary texts from diverse periods of Italian history as laboratories for the use and creative misuse of theory.

With literary texts by Giovanni Boccaccio, Italo Calvino, Elena Ferrante, Carlo Emilio Gadda, Iginio Ugo Tarchetti, and Giovanni Verga; and critical interventions by Agamben, Althusser, Barthes, Braidotti, Butler, De Lauretis, Deleuze, Derrida, Freud, Iovino, Latour, Marx, Ngai.