This course is designed to introduce students to the notable works of Italian women writers. We will explore the way in which Italian women writers have exploited literary techniques and conventions to confront concerns specific to them as women in distinct historical and political situations. We will start by listening to the voices of early women poets, and medieval holy women who wrote about their mystical experience (Chiara d’Assisi, Angela da Foligno). We will later turn to the fascinating figures of the Renaissance: Vittoria Colonna, Veronica Gambara, Gaspara Stampa, and Venetian courtesan poet Veronica Franco. Finally, we will read and examine the writings of some nineteenth-century and twentieth-century Italian women writers: Sibilla Aleramo’s feminist classic Una donna, Anna Banti’s novel about Baroque painter Artemisia Gentileschi, Anna Maria Ortese’s L’iguana, and Dacia Maraini’s best-seller La lunga vita di Marianna Ucria. The texts will be presented within a historical and theoretical context. All work will be in Italian.

Monday, Wednesday
12:00-1:50PM THH 209

Recommended preparation: ITAL 320.