Did you know that some of the raciest and most entertaining short stories were written in the early Renaissance by Giovanni Boccaccio, and that sixteenth-century women published their poems, letters and dialogues? And how about the fact that courtesans such as Veronica Franco vied with male courtiers for public recognition and Machiavelli wrote a comedy about an old lawyer who is tricked into putting his own wife into bed with her would-be lover?

And did you know that Michelangelo was the author of some of the most exquisite love poems ever written? We will explore together these questions and more in this course through the lens of gender and sexuality in the Renaissance.