Italian 402: La letteratura italiana tra moderno e postmoderno

Taught in Italian. Recommended preparation: ITAL 320
Instructor: Dr. Francesca Leardini
E-mail: Leardini@usc.edu

Course Description
This course will explore Italian literature between the nineteenth and twentieth-century through a reading of selected genres: novels, short stories, comedies and theoretical essays. We will focus on the works of three leading Italian authors – Verga, Pirandello and Palazzeschi – and place them in their historical, social and political contexts in order to better understand the large transformations occurring in Italian culture between the two centuries. Particular attention will be given to the central role of laughter as a tool for expressing the author’s perspective on life and cultural change in a modern and postmodern world as well as in response to European authors of the same periods. Students will be asked to interpret literary texts through close reading, verbal expression and in the writing of a few short essays on the works we will discuss in class.

U. Boccioni, La risata (1911), Museum of Modern Art, New York