IN ENGLISH

Fall 2007 Italian 499 Special Topics (4 units)
Monday and Wednesday, 2pm-3:20pm
Prof. Margaret Rosenthal, mrosenth@usc.edu

THE CRAFT OF STORYTELLING:
BOCCACCIO'S THE DECAMERON

We tell stories for many reasons: to entertain, to console, to teach, to persuade, to discover and to explore both our inner lives and the world we inhabit.

Through stories we make sense of our world and they serve as instruments to shape our future.

This seminar will consider how the craft of storytelling helps us face the task of living: the love and the happiness and the community we seek, the virtues we espouse, our talents and vulnerabilities. Our reading (in English translation) will be a European literary masterpiece, Boccaccio's *The Decameron* (ca. 1350-52), which showcases 100 stories told by 10 Florentines fleeing the Black Death.