Stories are a fundamental part of our lives: telling them; listening to them; reading them; watching them acted out on the television screen or in films or on stage. Fictional stories allow us to imagine; to conjure sequence of images, unfolding before our inner eye like a film, enabling us to dream when asleep and to turn mental patterns into stories when awake.

This course will focus on the traditions of storytelling in Italian literature. We will explore the relationship between stories and film, television, and other visual media within the Italian tradition by examining specific Italian films that are based on some of the stories we are reading. As a class, we will also write a few stories. Beginning with Italo Calvino’s classic folktales and fairy tales in renaissance Italy (Basile), we will then read selections from Boccaccio’s masterful collection of 100 novellas in his Decamerone, and a wide selection of modern and contemporary Italian authors such as Giovanni Verga, Luigi Pirandello, Giorgio Bassani, Alberto Moravia, Anna Maria Ortese, Leonardo Sciascia, Dacia Maraini, Primo Levi and others.

This course is taught in English and all readings are in translation.

Monday, Wednesday 2:00-3:20 pm
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