This course is conducted in Italian and focuses on the development of the twentieth century Italian novel with particular attention to its philosophical and historical context. We will devote in-depth readings and discussions to seminal works of Italian modernity. In particular, we will analyze Luigi Pirandello’s *Il fu Mattia Pascal* (1904, *The Late Mattia Pascal*) – to explore the crisis of subjectivity at the center of modernism; Italo Calvino’s *Il sentiero dei nidi di ragno* (1947, *The Path to the Spiders’ Nests*) – to highlight issues of political engagement and ethical accountability at the core of neorealism; and Dacia Maraini’s *La lunga vita di Marianna Ucria* (1990, *The Silent Duchess*) – to underscore the role of women’s agency and the theoretical developments of Italian feminism in modern Italy.

Throughout the course we will enhance the interplay between literature and film, which has characterized Italian culture since the silent cinema era, and discuss issues of filmic adaptation and intersemiotic translation.

This course fulfills the literary period requirement (Modern Italian) for the Italian Major/Minor.