Title: Love in the Time of Pandemic: Boccaccio’s Decameron

Taught online via Zoom

June 5, 12, 19, 26 2020: each lesson from 10:00am-12:00noon

We will take a 10-minute break at around 10:50am

In this course, taught entirely online, we will study the “greatest hits” from Boccaccio’s Decameron, beginning with his dramatic description of the Black Death of 1348 and covering his most famous stories.


June 5, 2020: Session 1: Two hours, with a brief break after 50 minutes

- **Part 1:** Orientation to the online course and to the online platform (Zoom); Introduction to Giovanni Boccaccio and to the Decameron, including medieval bawdy literature
- **Part 2:** Continuation of Part 1, and Introduction to the plague of 1348

June 12, 2020: Session 2: Two hours, with a brief break after 50 minutes

- **Part 1:** Discussion of the following parts of the Decameron
  - Author’s Introduction
  - Introduction to Day 1
  - Day 1, story 1: Cepparello / Ciappelletto
  - Day 1, story 2: Abraham and Giannotto *(time permitting)*
  - Day 1, story 3: The Three Rings *(time permitting)*
- **Part 2:** Discussion of the following parts of the Decameron
  - Day 3, story 1: Masetto of Lamporecchio and the nuns
  - Day 3, story 10: Alibech *(time permitting)*

June 19, 2020: Session 3: Two hours, with a brief break after 50 minutes

- **Part 1:** Discussion of the following parts of the Decameron
  - Introduction to Day 4: Filippo Balducci and his son
  - Day 4, story 10: Mazzeo della Montagna and his wife *(time permitting)*
  - Day 5, story 10: Pietro di Vinciolo and his wife
- **Part 2:** Discussion of the following parts of the Decameron
  - Day 6, story 1: Madonna Oretta
• Day 6, story 4: Chicchibio
• Day 6, story 9: Guido Cavalcanti (*time permitting*)
• Day 6 story 10: Fra Cipolla

**June 26, 2020: Session 4:** Two hours, with a brief break after 50 minutes

- **Part 1:** Discussion of the following parts of the *Decameron*
  - Day 7, story 1: Gianni Loteringhi, his wife, and the werewolf
  - Day 7, story 3: Fra Rinaldo (*time permitting*)
  - Day 7, story 8: Aringuccio Berlinghieri and his wife Simona

- **Part 2:** Discussion of the following parts of the *Decameron*
  - Day 9, story 2: The Abbess
  - Day 9, story 4: Cecco Angiulieri (*time permitting*)
  - Day 9, story 10: The horse (*time permitting*)
  - Day 10, story 10: Griselda
  - Author’s Conclusion