

## Fabian Alfie: HSP Syllabus

**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.

**Required book:** Giovanni Boccaccio, *The Decameron* (Penguin Books, 2003): ISBN: 978-0140449303 [Note: any translation of the *Decameron* will suffice, with the understanding that the English will be rendered differently]

**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