



Universidade Federal do Ceará
Centro de Humanidades
Programa de Pós-Graduação em Letras

PROGRAMA DE DISCIPLINA

1. Semestre:	
2022.1	
2. Modalidade:	
Mestrado (X)	Doutorado (X)
3 Identificação da Disciplina:	
Nome:	SEMINÁRIO DE LITERATURA COMPARADA: Unnatural: Elena Ferrante's Mothers
Código:	HGP7399
Carga Horária:	12h às 16h
Nº de Créditos:	1
4. Professor(a) Responsável:	
Stefania Porcelli - City University of New York	
5. Data/Horário:	
March 22, April 5, April 19, May 3, 12-4pm (12h-16h)	
6. Ementa:	
<p>Over the last decades, the theme of motherhood has enjoyed a widespread interest among writers and scholars alike. Various critical essays have shown that maternal figures serve multiple discourses, from psychological to political, and from educational to social ones. Elena Ferrante has explored this topic in all her novels, emphasizing even the most disturbing aspects of motherhood. On the other hand, the author constantly points to her artistic influence. This seminar looks at Ferrante's mothers in a twofold perspective: the mothers represented in <i>Cronache del mal d'amore</i> (<i>Troubling Love</i>, <i>The Days of Abandonment</i>, <i>The Lost Daughter</i>), in search of a way out of the role imposed on them by a patriarchal and violent society; and Ferrante's literary "mothers," female figures including both characters (Dido, Medea, Leda, Anna Karenina) and writers (Simone de Beauvoir, Elsa Morante).</p>	
7. Forma de avaliação:	
<p>The final grade for this course will be a combination of: a) students' reading and participation in class, b) in-class presentation (10 minutes) and c) a short paper (instructions will be available later) in English or Italian.</p>	
8. Bibliografia	

Primary sources:

- Ferrante, Elena. *L'amore molesto*. Roma: Edizioni e/o, 1992. (*Troubling Love*. Transl. Ann Goldstein. New York: Europa Editions, 2006.)
- Ferrante, Elena. *I giorni dell'abbandono*. Roma: Edizioni e/o, 2002. (*The Days of Abandonment*, Transl. Ann Goldstein. New York: Europa Editions, 2005)
- Ferrante, Elena. *La figlia oscura*. Roma: Edizioni e/o, 2006. (*The Lost Daughter*. Transl. Ann Goldstein. New York: Europa Editions, 2008.)
- Ferrante, Elena. *Frantumaglia: A Writer's Journey*. Transl. Ann Goldstein. New York: Europa Editions, 2016.

Secondary sources:

[De Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex* \(1949\)](#). (Excerpts)

De Beauvoir, Simone. *The Woman Destroyed*. Transl. Patrick O'Brien. New York: Pantheon, 1969.

De Rogatis, Tiziana. Elena Ferrante's Key Words. Transl. Will Shutt. New York: Europa Editions, 2019.

Eigen, Michael. *Toxic Nourishment*. London: Karnac, 1999.

Eigen, Michael. *Damaged Bonds*. London: Karnac, 2001.

Maksimowicz, Christine. "Maternal Failure and Its Bequest: Toxic Attachment in the Neapolitan Novels." In *The Works of Elena Ferrante: Reconfiguring the Margins*. Ed. Grace Russo Bullaro and Stephanie V. Love. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016. 207-236.

Milkova, Stiliana. "Mothers, Daughters, Dolls: On Disgust in Elena Ferrante's *La figlia oscura*." *Italian Culture* 2 (September 2013): 91-109.

Morante, Elsa. "Lo Lo scialle andaluso" (The Andalusian Shawl). 1963.

Rich, Adrienne. *Of Woman Born. Motherhood as Experience and Institution*. New York. W.W. Norton & Company, 1995.

Russo Bullaro, Grace, and Stephanie V. Love, eds. *The Works of Elena Ferrante: Reconfiguring the Margins*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016.

Sambuco, Patrizia. *Corporeal Bonds: The Daughter-Mother Relationship in Twentieth-Century Italian Women's Writing*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012.

Segnini, Elisa, "Local Flavour vs Global Readership: The Elena Ferrante Project and Translatability," *The Italianist* 37.1 (2017): 100-118.

Films:

- Durzi, Giacomo (Dir.) *Ferrante Fever*, 2017.
- Gyllenhaal, Maggy (Dir.), *The Lost Daughter*, 2021.
- Martone, Mario (Dir.), *L'amore molesto (Troubling Love)*, 2010.

9. Observações:

This course is taught online and in English. The students can read the material in Portuguese, English or Italian.