



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BERGAMO

Dipartimento  
di Lingue, Letterature  
e Culture Straniere



FAIRLEIGH  
DICKINSON  
UNIVERSITY

## HUMANITIES SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES

**Period: 15 - 26 June 2020**

### **Contemporary Visual Culture: Digital Images, Virtual Reality, Videogames and their Cultural Roots**

*Prof. Barbara Grespi (University of Bergamo/ University of Milan)*

This course explores the world of images, from classic photographs to digital images and virtual reality, analyzing how contemporary outputs are culturally rooted in traditional visual representations, although they may seem very far from them. Today we entertain a relationship with images which is physical and multisensory: virtual realities, videogames are immersive and involve far more than a sight experience. Touch conditions the form of images which, in a way, are also literally 'digital', as fingers' abilities are crucial for interactivity. We need to discover the 'archeology' and the archives that ground contemporary visual culture, in order to understand it.

### **Italian and European Travelers: Literature Between Identity and Stereotypes**

*Prof. Marco Sirtori (University of Bergamo)*

The course analyzes how travel literature has represented, interpreted and judged the Other and otherness, acting as a powerful means of shaping individual and national identities, from the golden age of Grand Tour to present times. We will thus focus on the different forms of Orientalism, a long series of fictional distortions, Eurocentric and colonialist perspectives, received ideas and stereotypes, not devoid of ideological and imperialist implications. The instructor will guide students through the reading of excerpts from a series of exemplary (European) travel literature texts, comparing them to orientalist painting and to the representation of travel and travellers in movies.