



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BERGAMO

Dipartimento  
di Lingue, Letterature  
e Culture Straniere



FAIRLEIGH  
DICKINSON  
UNIVERSITY

## HUMANITIES SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES

**Period: 21 June – 2 July 2021**

### **Travellers and the Making of a European Cultural Space: From Stereotypes to Identities**

*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.

### **Walls or Bridges: Italy, Migration, and the Pitfalls of Globalization**

*Prof. Gloria Pastorino (Fairleigh Dickinson University)*

Italy has been a country of mass migrations for a century and a half, both losing its people to countries that offer(ed) better working opportunities or welcoming a new labor force from several other countries, particularly in the past 40 years. Migrants to and from Italy have met with a similar, at times inhumane, treatment as suspect "others," against whom communities need to build defenses to protect a fragile sense of self. Political agendas have always contributed to a social unrest that aims at criminalizing people rather than appreciating them as resources.

The course explores the different nature of these migrations through a socio-economic, political, and cultural lens, using essays, literature, films, and documentaries.