



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BERGAMO

Dipartimento  
di Lingue, Letterature  
e Culture Straniere

## 2026 HUMANITIES SUMMER SCHOOL

15-26 June 2026

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

Prof. Gloria Pastorino (Professoressa Emerita, 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.

### **Digital Humanities: Theory and Practice**

Prof. April Patrick (Rowan University)

Digital Humanities is a broad term that includes a wide range of approaches to engaging with literature, history, and art by using technological tools to provide new insights about those materials or new ways of accessing them. This course explores the goals and methods of digital humanities work and provides hands-on experience with textual analysis and distant reading, data analysis and visualization, network analysis, and digital editions and publishing. Each meeting will include theoretical foundation and history of digital humanities as a field, analysis of existing digital humanities projects, reading and discussion of literary texts (for summer 2026, the novel *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley), and hands-on activities to use digital humanities tools. By the end of the course, students will create and present their own digital humanities project on a topic of their choice.



**29 June-10 July 2026**

***'Make' in Italy: An Introductory Lab on Entrepreneurship and Venture Creation in Cultural and Creative Industries***

*Supported by "Competencies and Resources for Entrepreneurial Orientation" (CREO) – Center for Young and Family Enterprise (CYFE), University of Bergamo, within the broader entrepreneurship education offerings available on the CREO platform; Course Director Prof. Davide Hahn*

The entrepreneur is an agent of change and an innovator who identifies and acts upon opportunities across various domains. In today's globalized and interconnected economy, technological disruptions—such as artificial intelligence—and major demographic trends—such as population aging—create fertile ground for startup creation across sectors, not only in high-tech industries but also in the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs), including those tied to culture and the 'Made in Italy' brand (e.g., arts, humanities, food, tourism).

Starting from the fundamental theoretical foundations of entrepreneurship, the course introduces participants to core tools for generating and validating opportunities for new venture creation. These tools will be applied through a real-world challenge proposed by an organization operating in the CCIs. Students will respond to this challenge by developing and validating a startup opportunity. The aim of this challenge-based approach is to enable participants to internalize idea generation and validation methodologies by applying them to real problems and opportunities within the CCIs.

**How to See the World. Contemporary Visual Cultures and Politics of the Gaze**

Prof. Giuseppe Previtali (University of Bergamo)

The module provides a critical introduction to visual culture studies, offering the students with methodological tools to interpret images and visual media as crucial cultural agents of contemporary mediascapes. Moving from the idea that contemporary events – whether political, social, or cultural – are increasingly shaped by and circulated through visual forms, the course will frame visibility as a key site of ideological-political negotiation. By examining a heterogeneous range of media (from photography to cinema and interactive media), the course will



explore how visual forms shape contemporary reality, particularly in contexts of conflict and crisis (e.g., war and insurgencies). Particular attention will be paid to the political dimension of aesthetics, the epistemological challenges posed by algorithmic images and artificial intelligence, and the role of visual culture in the construction of public discourse.

During the first week, the course will sketch a genealogy and methodology of visual studies, providing critical frameworks to address contemporary visibility. During the second week, the course will address the link between visual culture and conflicts, focusing on post-9/11 wars and offering insights from leading figures of the field (e.g., Mitchell, Mirzoeff, etc.).