

Italian

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	Elena Ferrante
Code	ITU33141
Semester	1
ECTS credits	5
Pre-requisite	

Module Content

Elena Ferrante is the female pen name of a mysterious Italian author who has become a global phenomenon over the past twenty years. Her work has been translated into more than 40 languages and her four-volume novel *My Brilliant Friend* has sold millions of copies worldwide. Despite her success, Ferrante has persevered in her decision to remove herself from the public scene, thus promoting an idea of the author as a disembodied digital presence, blurring boundaries of gender, nationality, age.

In the meantime, through her novels and non-fictional work, Ferrante has engaged passionately with important themes linked to equality and inclusion – such as gender discrimination and violence – supporting the struggle of women against a society steeped in prejudice and patriarchal values. For this reason, among others, Ferrante’s stories – set in the periphery of the Global South – have acquired incredible resonance on a global level.

This course will analyse Ferrante’s deconstruction of the traditional female subject in her fictional work, from *Troubling Love* to *My Brilliant Friend*. We will address important questions around the mother-daughter bond, genetic and performative identity, and the connection between human and nonhuman characters (animals, technology and the environment) in the construction of Ferrante’s female subject. We will also discuss aspects linked with the choice of genre, language, marketing and transmedia storytelling (*My Brilliant Friend* as a TV series) which contributed to Ferrante’s undisputed success.

Learning Outcomes

Assuming you attend all or most lectures, actively participate in tutorials, complete assignments and engage in independent learning, at the end of this module you should be able to:

Have an understanding of key themes related to gender, identity, societal values, women struggle in Elena Ferrante's work;

Have developed an understanding of feminist and posthumanist readings of Ferrante's work and of her discourse on identity;

Have developed an understanding of the main stylistic and thematic aspects behind Ferrante's global success;

Have developed an ability to discuss, analyse, compare and contrast Ferrante's texts through the lens of feminist and posthumanist theory.

Assessment

3500-4000-word essay (100%)