ITAL 357

Race in Italy: Inventing Others in the Early Modern World

This course interrogates ideas of racial and other kinds of difference as they evolved in Italy (and elsewhere in Europe) from around 1300 to 1700. Taking as its starting-point a white supremacist imagined "white" medieval culture, the course analyzes changing ideas about human bodies, race, gender, and geography within their own historical contexts. Starting with categories like "Europe," "Africa," and "Italy", as well as medieval ideas of race, we ask: How and why were certain bodies described as different? What do those descriptions tell us about the authors' various agendas? And how and why did the category *race* increasingly refer to skin color rather than its earlier associations with religion, clan, or place of birth?

Spring 2021 - Prof. Susan Gaylard

MW 1:30-3:20pm

Remote course with synchronous class meetings

5 credits DIV/VLPA