The fiction written in Italy and published in the decade after the end of World War II and the fall of Mussolini is some of the most well-known and influential writing translated and available in America. We will read from a selection of these works and address the techniques each writer brings to bear. Lyrical realism, the fictional style Italy is best known for, and America’s favorite also, will be at the center of these conversations, as well as how these writers wrote about their country as it faced war, the police state, Fascism, complicity, rebellion and reconstruction.

Text for Class:

*Open City: Seven Writers in Postwar Rome: Ignazio Silone, Giorgio Bassani, Alberto Moravia, Elsa Morante, Natalia Ginzburg, Carlo Levi, Carlo Emili*, edited by William Weaver, Steerforth Press Italia, 1999. This is an out of print book but it is widely available online second hand. While I will be making a digital copy available to students, if you prefer the paper copy, please order your own via Amazon, Abe Books, or your favored online retailer.

The reading schedule is as follows:

**Week 1**
- W: William Weaver’s introduction
- F: Elsa Morante: *The Nameless One*
  - W: Ignazio Silone: *Bread and Wine*
  - F: Natalia Ginzburg: *Valentino*
- W: Alberto Moravia: *Agostino*
  - F: Carlo Emilio Gadda: from *That Awful Mess On Via Merulana*
- W: Giorgio Bassani: from *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*
  - F: Carlo Levi: from *The Watch*