In the last decade, gallantry has been brandished as a bulwark against Anglo-American and/or Islamic influences in order to preserve the specificities of French culture as regards gender and sexuality. As an alternative to this identitarian and celebratory approach of it, the course will propose a historical and critical analysis of gallantry as an amorous culture that emerged, and became rapidly dominant, in 17th-century France. Focusing on its diffusion through literature, we will address gallantry from the viewpoint of the history of sexuality and highlight how it paved the way for modern heterosexuality. For that purpose, we will read literary texts written by authors such as Corneille, Racine, La Fayette as well as theorists or historians of sexuality such as Foucault, Halperin, Rubin, Wittig.

Professor Dupas

W 3:00-5:50P

Spring 2018 – French and Italian Department
Even more than he does in his late books, Michel Foucault identifies the history of philosophy in his last two seminars at the Collège de France (1982-1984) with the invention of new ways of living and new forms of subjectivity. This course examines how, in these seminars, Foucault displaces the concept of truth from the domain of logos to that of life. We will focus in particular on Foucault’s interrogation of two ideas: parrhēsia (or fearless speech) and forms of life. According to his analysis, the two notions are related to each other, as fearless speech reveals itself to have not only a political dimension but also an ethical one, which aims at transforming the subject’s way of life through the exercise of courage. Foucault traces the argument of his seminars back to an array of Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman sources. Finally, although he does not make gender an overt central focus of his late thought, we will consider to what extent this category may be seen to play a crucial role in extending the practices of truth-telling and care of the self.

We will place Foucault’s final seminars in dialogue with a selection of excerpts from ancient texts including Plato’s Apology and Laches, Euripides’s Ion, and Epictetus’s Discourses as well as from contemporary works such as Hadot’s Philosophy as a Way of Life, Foucault’s own The Hermeneutics of the Subject, Agamben’s The Highest Poverty, and Sara Ahmed’s Living a Feminist Life.

**Professor Ricciardi**

Th 3:00-5:50P
The aim of this course is to introduce graduate students to twentieth-century theories of visual culture, sound, and media, with special emphasis on the French and German contexts. Rather than attempting to cover all positions and directions, we will work around specific questions and trace the ways in which they have been pursued by theorists and practitioners alike. How can we conceptualize the relation between art and technology? Can we speak of perception and memory independently of specific technical apparatuses? What is at stake in the shift from analog to digital media at the level of both inscription and reception? As we consider different kinds of media, we will read texts by Roland Barthes, Jacques Derrida, and Bernard Stiegler, among others. We will also analyze films by Martin Arnold, Guy Debord, Chris Marker, Harun Farocki, and Alain Resnais.

Professor Torlasco
Tu 3:00-5:50P

Spring 2018 – French and Italian Department
The exercise of various modes of power: social, political, erotic, dialogic. How has resistance to power been imagined and carried out?

**French 494: Forms of Power**

The exercise of various modes of power: social, political, erotic, dialogic. How has resistance to power been imagined and carried out?

**Professor Bersani**

M 3:00-5:50P

Spring 2018 - French and Italian Department