Autumn Quarter 2024
CALVINO’S WORLDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>DATES AND TIMES</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katia Mitova</td>
<td>COURSE LENGTH: Ten weeks DATES: October 5 – December 14 (no class on 11/30)</td>
<td>GLEACHER CENTER Please make sure to accept your invitation to Canvas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMAIL:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kmitova@uchicago.edu">kmitova@uchicago.edu</a> (The instructor can be contacted through a Canvas message as well.)</td>
<td>DATE OF THE WEEK: Saturday TIME: 9:30 AM – 12:45 PM COURSE CODE AND SECTION: BASC 70262 24A2 PREREQUISITES: NONE</td>
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Although this is an in-person course, supplementary materials will be posted online. Please accept the electronic invitation to join Canvas. (You will receive it about a week before the course begins.) Canvas login instructions are available here: https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts.

Shortly before his death, Italo Calvino (1923-1985) wrote: “The grand challenge for literature is to be capable of weaving together the various branches of knowledge, their various ‘codes’ into a manifold and multifaceted vision of the world” (Six Memos for the Next Millennium). As a young writer, Calvino had accepted the challenge, left behind neorealism and, intrepidly, like a modern Marco Polo, set out to discover new worlds. Inspired by the “codes” of myth, history, literature, art, architecture, philosophy, astronomy, physics, mathematics, semiotics, and biology, his imagination and masterful storytelling wove an enchanting, uniquely Calvinian universe. We will discuss *Invisible Cities* (1972), *If on a Winter Night a Traveler* (1979), and *Mr. Palomar* (1983) as well as a selection of Calvino’s essays and short stories from *Cosmicomics* (1965), *Difficult Loves* (1970), and *The Castle of Crossed Destinies* (1973). Expect weekly reading assignments of about 70-90 pages.

SYLLABUS
This preliminary version of the syllabus is meant to give you a general idea of the organization of the course. The selections of short stories from *Difficult Loves* and *The Complete Cosmicomics* will be specified in the updated syllabus (to be posted in September).

REQUIRED BOOKS

RECOMMENDED PRELIMINALY READING
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENTS FROM ITALO CALVINO’S WORKS</th>
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| 1    | 10/5  | **Story-making, Story-telling, Story-reading: Introduction to Calvino**  
“The Adventure of a Reader” and “The Adventure of a Poet” (from *Difficult Loves*)  
“The Distance of the Moon” (from *The Complete Cosmicomics*)  
Excerpts from *The Castle of Crossed Destinies* (handout in Canvas) |
| 2    | 10/12 | *Invisible Cities* (Parts 1-3, pp. 5-56)  
Selection from *The Complete Cosmicomics* (TBD) |
| 3    | 10/19 | *Invisible Cities* (Parts 4-6, pp. 59-99)  
Selection from *The Complete Cosmicomics* (TBD) |
| 4    | 10/26 | *Invisible Cities* (Parts 7-9, pp. 103-165)  
Selection from *The Complete Cosmicomics* (TBD) |
| 5    | 11/2  | *If on a Winter’s Night a Traveler* (pp. 3-67)  
Selection from *Difficult Loves* (TBD) |
| 6    | 11/9  | *If on a Winter’s Night a Traveler* (pp. 68-131)  
Selection from *Difficult Loves* (TBD) |
| 7    | 11/16 | *If on a Winter’s Night a Traveler* (pp. 132-198)  
Selection from *Difficult Loves* (TBD) |
| 8    | 11/23 | *If on a Winter’s Night a Traveler* (pp. 199-260)  
Selection from *Difficult Loves* (TBD) |
| 9    | 12/7  | *Mr. Palomar* (pp. 3-66)  
Selection from *The Complete Cosmicomics* (TBD) |
| 10   | 12/14 | *Mr. Palomar* (pp. 67-126)  
Selection from *The Complete Cosmicomics* (TBD) |

DISABILITY INFORMATION: Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.