

		<h1>ITALY READS</h1> <p><i>Scholarship for Professional Development Course for High School Teachers</i></p> <p><b>Italy Reads 2019 Walt Whitman's <i>The Leaves of Grass</i> Deadline to apply 8 Jan. 2019</b></p>	
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**Italy Reads** is John Cabot University's community-based reading and cultural exchange program that began in 2009 with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for **The Big Read Rome**. The book chosen for **Italy Reads 2019** is the Library of America's edition of Walt Whitman's writings. **Italy Reads 2019** will include: a keynote speech by an expert on Whitman; a theater production of a play inspired his work; screenings of a film adaptation of his work, teacher training workshops; Italy Reads public lectures, student intercultural exchanges; discussion groups; teaching materials related to the author and his work.

In preparation for Italy Reads 2019, John Cabot University is offering **30 scholarships to attend a Professional Development Course (30 hrs.) on Walt Whitman**. Interested applicants must fit the criteria and follow the procedures detailed in the following sections.

**Course Title:** *Italy Reads Walt Whitman*  
**Instructors:** Andrew Rutt and Elena Buia Rutt  
 The official text for the course: Walt Whitman: Poetry and Prose (Library of America),  
**ISBN: 9780940450028.**

Language of instruction: English

**Criteria for application:** Applicants must teach English literature in a *liceo* or high school and register as official participants in the **Italy Reads** program.

**Course Description:**

Walt Whitman (1813 - 1892) is to be considered not only one of the fathers of modern American poetry, but also of the "American dream". His collection of poems *Leaves of Grass*, revised and republished by the author in six different editions between 1855 and 1892, constituted an authentic guiding light for the renewal of modern poetry tout court.

The Italy Reads course will commence with background information to help the participants garner an understanding of Walt Whitman's poetry. This preliminary stage will include biographical information about Whitman, and the historical period and literary milieu of when he was writing. The historical background will focus on the American Civil War (causes, protagonists, battles, consequences) until Lincoln's Presidency and death. The literary backdrop will contextualize the author in the US literature tradition, exploring the writers Whitman himself read and dealt with, in particular Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. This contextualization will include an exploration of those artists who have been influenced by Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, for example, Bram Stoker, Gerard Manley Hopkins, William Carlos Williams, Allen Ginsberg, Cesare Pavese, and Mary Oliver.

To further explore Whitman's poetry, we will discuss each week those poems that follow specific themes such as the celebration of US democracy; his interest for the lives of common people' and their activities; the chant

of the majesty of wide natural spaces; and, the intensity of the feelings which give life to such poetry. The course participants will be encouraged to discuss their reflections with us and with their classmates.

In addition to classroom discussion, each participant is required to keep a journal which will include a critical analysis of the poems read and discussed. We will be available to consult with each student to help choose materials and strategies for looking at the particular poems we have read. By the end of the course, the course participants should feel comfortable reading, discussing and contextualization Whitman's work.

The course will take place from **22 January to 7 May 2019. It will meet from 4:30-6:00 p.m. each Tuesday.** Attendance at a minimum of 80% of all class meetings is required as is participation as presenter in one of the Italy Reads Teacher Training Workshops that will be scheduled in May and September. Applicants must teach English literature in a *liceo* or high school and register as official participants in the **Italy Reads** program.

*Scholarship* – Winners will receive a certificate of award and final certification of the total number of hours (30) of Professional Development. Participants will not receive a university transcript of university credit for this course.

*Procedure for Application* - Application Form and Essay. Applicants must fill in the form below and complete the essay as specified.

*Review by Committee* - The application and essay will be reviewed by Italy Reads Academic Advisor Professor Carlos Dews and by Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs Mary Merva.

**Applications for the scholarship must be received by JCU before 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 January 2019.** Scholarship winners will be announced before 15 January 2019.

		<h1>ITALY READS</h1> <p><i>Scholarship for Professional Development Course for High School Teachers</i></p> <p><b>Italy Reads 2019 Walt Whitman's The Leaves of Grass Deadline to apply 8 Jan. 2019</b></p>	
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**Applicant Information**

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ CAP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you been a high school teacher? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you taught American literature? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you taught or are you familiar with the work of Walt Whitman? \_\_\_\_\_

**Essay**

In 1-2 pages, please discuss your previous experience with Italy Reads or The Big Read Rome and how you felt you and your students benefited from the programs **OR** discuss how you feel your participation in a Professional Development Course on Walt Whitman could enhance your abilities as a teacher.

Please return the completed application by **8 January** to one of the following:

- by email to: [italyreads@johncabot.edu](mailto:italyreads@johncabot.edu)
- by fax to: 06 6832088 (Attention: Italy Reads)