Intensive summer course
Thursday 3 May to Thursday 7 June 2018, 1pm-4pm

ANG 6092 Readings in Contemporary Theory
“Love and Algorithms”

Dr. Michael Sinatra

Across the centuries, many conceptions of love have been formulated. Love has been considered a mystery, irrational, random, but also rational, necessary, and dependent on destiny. In this balance between chance and the necessity of love, two extremely opposite approaches can be identified: love as a random thing, occurring without reason, or love as a necessary thing, wherein the person one loves is the only possible object of love, as if it were the fulfillment of some sort of destiny. And yet, in this context, what is interesting is to look at what love is nowadays, in our digitalized world. Because, if on one side it is essential to consider how we have interpreted this very ancient notion in our culture, it has, on the other, become fundamental to analyze how the concept of love changes in a culture that is getting more and more digitalized. Since digital technologies are affecting our thinking processes, as well as how we interpret the world in which we live, it is natural that most of our ideas are also affected by digital culture: the idea of space, time, but also of friendship, or even of privacy.

This intensive summer course will offer a mix of theoretical readings on cultural studies and digital humanities (especially on algorithms), with some novels that engage with the idea of love and technology. (Titles include Alain de Botton’s The Course of Love, Scott Hutchins’ A Working Theory of Love: A Novel, and Dexter Palmer’ Version Control: A Novel.)

Schedule:
- Thursday 3 May 2018
- Thursday 10 May 2018
- Tuesday 15 May 2018
- Thursday 17 May 2018
- Tuesday 22 May 2018
- Tuesday 29 May 2018
- Thursday 31 May 2018
- Thursday 7 June 2018