Deanna Shemek

“From Surface to Symptom and Back Again: Reading the Renaissance Correspondence of Isabella d’Este”

May 8,
3 - 5 pm
HG 3341

Deanna Shemek is Professor of Literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is the author of Ladies Errant: Wayward Women and Social Order in Early Modern Italy (1998). She has edited and co-translated Adriana Cavarero, Stately Bodies: Literature, Philosophy, and the Question of Gender (1995), and co-edited Phaethon’s Children: The Este Court and its Culture in Early Modern Ferrara (2005) and Writing Relations: American Scholars in Italian Archives (2008). While publishing essays on Ariosto, Aretino, Boccaccio, and a number of Renaissance women poets, she has been studying the correspondence of Isabella d’Este for many years. She is editor and translator of the Selected Letters of Isabella d’Este (2017), and co-director of the online site for study of the Italian Renaissance, IDEA: Isabella d’Este Archive http://isbelladeste.web.unc.edu. This talk is based on the opening chapter of her book in progress, on Isabella d’Este as a Renaissance correspondent.