

COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER: History of Italian Cinema – FVA 276



3 credits

Faculty: Marco Marino

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course introduces the student to the world of Italian Cinema. In the first part the class will be analyzing Neorealism, a cinematic phenomenon that deeply influenced the ideological and aesthetic rules of film art. In the second part we will concentrate on the films that mark the decline of Neorealism and the talent of "new" auteurs such as Fellini and Visconti. The last part of the course will be devoted to the cinema from 1970's to the present in order to pay attention to the latest developments of the Italian industry. The course is a general analysis of post-war cinema and a parallel social history of this period using films as "decoded historical evidence". Together with masterpieces such as "Open City" and "The Bicycle Thief" the screenings will include films of the Italian directors of the "cinema d'autore".

Students express their opinions and make their own criticisms and written assignments.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

- ✓ describe the history of Italian cinema from World War II to the present, and analyze its links with Italian history and society
- ✓ appreciate the masterpieces of Italian cinema
- ✓ write and present a critique of a film

DIVISION OF SUBJECT MATTER

- ✓ Course outline and introduction
- ✓ Italy and World War II
- ✓ Ideological and stylistic characteristics of Italian Neo-realism
- ✓ *Roma città aperta* by R. Rossellini
- ✓ Neo-realism in V. De Sica
- ✓ *Ladri di biciclette* by V. De Sica
- ✓ The 2nd wave of Neo-realism
- ✓ *Bellissima* by L. Visconti
- ✓ Italian Cinema in the 1960s. 1. Comedy Italian Style
- ✓ *I soliti ignoti* by M. Monicelli
- ✓ Comedy Italian Style in P. Germi
- ✓ *Divorce Italian style* by P. Germi
- ✓ Western Italian Style: Sergio Leone and “Spaghetti Western”: *Per un pugno di dollari* by S. Leone
- ✓ Italian Cinema in the 1960. 2. The “Auteurs”
- ✓ *La Strada* by F. Fellini
- ✓ *La dolce vita* by F. Fellini
- ✓ Cinema and Literature: Tomasi di Lampedusa and Visconti
- ✓ *Il Gattopardo* by L. Visconti
- ✓ The Italian political cinema in the 1970s
- ✓ *Una giornata particolare* by E. Scola
- ✓ The crisis of Italian cinema in the ‘80s and its re-birth
- ✓ *Nuovo Cinema Paradiso* by G. Tornatore
- ✓ The new *auteurs*
- ✓ *La vita è bella* by R. Benigni

TEXTS

- ✓ P. Bondanella, *A History of Italian Cinema*, Continuum International Publishing Group, 2001
- ✓ G. Brunetta, *The History of Italian Cinema: A Guide to Italian Film from Its Origins to the Twenty-First Century*, Princeton University Press, 2009

ASSESSMENT

25% Mid-term exam
25%: Written Assignments
30%: Final Evaluation
20%: Participation

The mid-term exam will include: 10 open-ended questions, 5 multiple-choice, 500 word short essay. More detailed information will be made available at the start of the program.

Assignments to be submitted by email: one paper of 4 pages in length for each movie including:

- ✓ A film critique
- ✓ Film era summary
- ✓ Comparative analysis
- ✓ At least two references to US or Italian professional critics

Final Evaluation to be submitted by email: long essay (12 pages, Times New Roman 12, double space) concerning one of the movies chosen by students and approved by Faculty.

Grading Scale

A	95%-100
A-	90%-94%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	77%-79%
C	73%-76%
C-	70%-72%
D+	67%-69%
D	63%-66%
D-	60%-62%
F	under 60

Attendance:

You are allowed two unexcused absences (one in the Summer terms). Documentation for any other absence MUST be produced and APPROVED by the professor or the Academic Director. For absences due to illness, please provide the professor with a doctor's note upon returning to class as well as inform them and/or the school the first day of illness. Each unexcused absence after thesecond will reduce your grade by 3 percentage points.

Late submissions:

Assignments not submitted by the due date will receive a penalty of 10% for the first 24 hours, 20% for a 48 hour delay. No submissions will be accepted more than 3 days after the deadline, unless arrangements have been made with the instructor (for extensions under exceptional circumstances, apply to the course instructor).

Personal Technology:

Please turn cell phones off during class. Laptops may be to take notes, however social networking, e-mailing, surfing the Internet, playing games, etc. are absolutely forbidden during class. Any student caught doing the aforementioned activities during class will be asked to turn off their cell phones and/or computers.

Repeated violations of this rule after the first warning will result in the student being marked absent for the day and permanently losing their laptop privileges. Be respectful; the use of personal electronic devices during class is limited to academic purposes.

Contesting a grade:

If students wish to contest a grade they must make an appointment to do so in person. The student should contact the instructor with any concerns within ONE week of receiving the grade. The student must also demonstrate that they have read the comments accompanying the grade by presenting a brief written statement specifying why the grade does not reflect the quality of the work.

It is at the discretion of the instructor to decide whether the work and the student's request warrant any increase or decrease in the grade. Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments and feedback (in case of loss) and should also retain all of their marked assignments.

Academic Honesty Statement:

Academic dishonesty is NOT tolerated in this course.

Academic honesty is not only an ethical issue but also the foundation of scholarship. Cheating and plagiarism are therefore serious breaches of academic integrity. If you refer to someone else's work, appropriate references and citations must be provided.