

Course Outline: Italian Cinema, Literature and Society

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & LINGUISTICS

Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.

Course Code

AP/IT1761 6.0 Italian Cinema, Literature and Society

Course Description

An introduction to Italian cinema from the end of World War II to the end of the 20th Century (with glimpses of the Italian Cinema of the silent period as well as of the Third Millennium) as a reflection of the fundamental changes that have taken place in recent Italian history. The course also examines Italian cinema as an art with its own autonomous language, with connections to other forms of expression, particularly to literature. Moreover, film in general, and Italian cinema is no exception, has served as a major source of popular entertainment, as a producer of new mythologies as well as a tool for the examination of social and political conditions, and has in turn been influenced by the changing reality of the last hundred years. Perhaps no other artistic form has had the same impact on society. The course will focus on fourteen of the most significant Italian films, seen as critical statements on the phenomena connected with the rapid transformation of Italian society: the war and its aftermath; industrialization and the “economic miracle”; urbanization; the growth of the middle class. Some of the films studied are based on literary texts, thus providing an opportunity to show the links between cinema and literature. The last part of the course will deal with the crisis of traditional values, the decline of democratic institutions and postmodern fragmentation. Other films will be added to the course, either complete or partial (clips) to study in a broader and more in-depth manner the state of the Italian film industry and the Italian society at large.

Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: BLEN

The course lectures will be delivered online. There will be both asynchronous and synchronous deliveries. Tutorials will be taught in person, with no exception. Synchronous lectures will be held three times per term and will allow students to connect directly with the course director, especially those students who do not have a tutorial with him. Active participation will be a crucial portion of the final grade; regular but passive attendance will not be sufficient for a high mark in this section. All assignments are held in person during tutorials.

Course Materials

The main textbooks will be available to students through the York Universities Libraries website. The course also foresees the study of a novel vis-à-vis its film adaptation, and the relevant novel will be included in the list of the textbooks. Readings will be posted on a weekly basis on E Class, and will include videos, articles and other written material. Reading assignments will pertain to the film introduced in each lecture, plus Power Point presentations used for the study of relevant theoretical frames (key concepts and specific studies). The course will also require a fair knowledge of terms and concepts (and their definition) mostly used in film studies.

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Film review - Fall	5 %	In person	Week 4, according to the tutorial schedule
Critical response - Fall	15 %	In person	Week 7, according to the tutorial schedule
Midterm	20 %	In person	Week 12, according to the tutorial schedule
Film review - Winter	5 %	In person	Week 15, according to the tutorial schedule
Critical response - Winter	15 %	In person	Week 19, according to the tutorial schedule
Final test	20 %	In person	Week 24, according to the tutorial schedule
Participation	20 %	N/A	
	100%		