

ITAL 3050: ITALIAN CULTURE THROUGH FILM

ITAL 3050.01
M & W: 2-3:20 pm

FALL 2024
LANG 204

Instructor: Molly Sweigart Office: LANG 405K Office hours: M 9-10, F 2-3 or by appointment E-mail: Molly.Sweigart@unt.edu
--

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We will be doing an overview of Italian Cinema from post-WWII Neorealism to modern day. We will explore Italian culture, language and history through the cinematic lens using each film as a framework for discussion and examination. Different genres will be introduced and analyzed and certain filmmakers will be highlighted as we move chronologically through the decades. Class will be conducted in Italian and English.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. English/Italian online dictionary: www.wordreference.com. A portable, paper dictionary is always a wonderful and recommended tool, as well!

2. REQUIRED VIEWINGS:

1. *Ladri di biciclette* (Kanopy)
2. *I Vitelloni* (UNT streaming)
3. *8 ½* (Kanopy)
4. *Divorzio all'italiana* (Max)
5. *Ieri, oggi e domani* (Kanopy)
6. *L'uccello dalle piume di cristallo* (Kanopy)
7. *Pasqualino Settebellezze* (Kanopy)
8. *Johnny Stecchino*
9. *La grande bellezza* (Kanopy)

PRESENTATION VIEWINGS:

1. *Roma, città aperta* (Kanopy)
2. *La dolce vita* (UNT streaming)
3. *Matrimonio all'italiana* (Kino)
4. *Sei donne per l'assassino* (AMC)
5. *Mimi metallurgico ferito nell'onore* (Kino)
6. *Il Mostro* (Free on Prime)
7. *Amarcord* (Free on Prime)
8. *Ossessione* (UNT streaming)
9. *È stata la mano di Dio* (Netflix)
10. *Suspiria* (Xumo Play)

You will be responsible for watching each required viewing on your own time outside of class. All of the films you can find on an online platform, many at no cost. *Kanopy* is a free online platform for university students. Having a *Prime* and *YouTube* subscription will help, as well. Many of the films you can stream for free through UNT's Chilton Media Library or you can reserve a physical copy of the DVD.

We will have a "free choice" week (*see syllabus*) in which you will be expected to have watched an Italian film of choice and you will share a brief (informal!) synopsis of the film. I will provide a handout with film suggestions within the first few weeks of the semester and each student will be expected to watch something different.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students will have

- ✓ experienced some major examples of Italian cinema,
- ✓ developed greater facility in analyzing the language and tropes of film,
- ✓ engaged with Italian popular discourse around the themes of youth, rebellion, and the South, drawing comparisons to that discourse in their own culture,
- ✓ increased their proficiency with the Italian language through conversation, writing, and oral presentation

GRADES AND POLICIES

Attendance: As with all language classes and since we only meet twice a week, attendance in ITAL 3050 is compulsory. Absences due to severe illness, family weddings and funerals, religious holidays, and official university events will be excused, provided that you can supply **appropriate documentation**. I would appreciate a physical copy of your document given to me in class. All other absences will be unexcused. Accumulating excessive unexcused absences will result in your grade being reduced according to the following scheme:

- 2 or fewer unexcused absences: No effect on final grade.
- 3-more unexcused absences: each absence results in 3% deduction of your attendance grade (3 absences= 97%; 4= 94%; 5= 91% and so on...)

Participation and preparedness: Your job in this course is to practice using Italian around the designated topics. This should involve some work every day outside of class: whether watching or re-watching the films, making notes, or preparing for presentations or written assignments. Each class meeting, then, will be an opportunity for you to demonstrate what you have been working on during the week, to share your thoughts and questions about the material, and to engage with the work of your classmates. It takes time to figure out how to articulate your thoughts in Italian! Give yourself enough time during the off days to make sense of what you want to say. In assessing your participation, I will be looking for **evidence of good preparation**.

Presentazioni (presentations): Each student will choose a presentation viewing and will present a PowerPoint presentation on the film with facts, summary, scene analysis and feedback **in Italian** (if there are some points in English, that is fine). Take time to research each film and a sign-up sheet will be circulated on **Wednesday, September 4** in class. If you are absent that day, you will be assigned a film. Along with the PowerPoint and presentation, you will turn in a 2 page typed analysis of the film in Italian. A summary of presentation expectations will be posted on Canvas within the first few weeks of class.

Free choice week: You will be expected to present to the class a synopsis of your Italian film of choice. You will present the plot, characters, analyze a scene and give us your opinions on various aspects of the film. This will count towards your “Quizzes/Homework” average. Although it is informal and will not be expected to turn anything in, you will be graded on preparedness and you may prepare a (brief) PowerPoint, if you choose.

Prove (quizzes): Periodically throughout the semester short online quizzes will be administered on Canvas. There is one pre-scheduled on the syllabus.

Compiti a casa (homework): Some of the required viewings will require the completion of an activity packet with a short reading and exercises (in Italian) that will be used to guide in-class discussion and may be turned in for a homework grade. These assignments count towards the homework portion of your final grade and will NOT be accepted late.

Since there is no designated textbook for the course, not all assignments are listed on the syllabus. That is, photocopies of readings and activities will be handed out periodically in class and may or may not be collected for a grade. **Required and optional** handouts, videos and readings will also be posted on Canvas throughout the semester, so be sure to check the platform daily. Announcements (including last-minute class cancellation!) will be posted on Canvas, as well.

Esame finale: Your final exam will be administered online via Canvas and will be cumulative. More details on what to expect and how to prepare will be given closer to the end of the semester.

Final Grade

Your final grade will be the weighted average of the following elements:

Attendance: 20%

Participation and Preparation:	20%
Quizzes/Homework:	20%
Required Film Presentation:	20%
<u>Esame Finale:</u>	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Course Policies and General Information

PROTOCOL FOR THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING IN-PERSON CLASS MEETINGS:

Please don't. Electronic devices, including cell phones, computers, tablets, *et cetera*, should be turned off and stashed out of sight upon entering the room, if not before. This includes viewing the e-text in class, as well as using online dictionaries. (If you are authorized to use an electronic device by the Office of Disability Access, please let me know and we can work something out.)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: I expect you to conform to the highest standard of academic integrity. Using online translation tools other than simple dictionaries, passing off someone else's work as your own, pulling shenanigans during quizzes and tests, or any other form of academic misrepresentation will be both punished in this course (at minimum, a grade of zero on the assignment in question) and reported to Academic Affairs. If you are unsure as to whether something is all right, it is probably not, but you are welcome to check with me or consult the University Policy on Academic Dishonesty.

S.P.O.T. EVALUATIONS: At the end of term, you will receive an e-mail with a link to a confidential survey to evaluate this class. Please take the time to fill this out: I read the surveys and appreciate your honest feedback.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/07.012_CodeofConduct_2013_0.pdf

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, & ASSAULT: UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to

support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources>.

The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or calling 940-565-2648. The UNT Survivor Advocates connect students who have been impacted by violence to resources (counseling, health, safety, academics, legal, etc.), and act as their advocate. They can assist a student by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change (if needed), and connecting students to the many other resources that are available, both on and off campus. They are here to help! For more information see <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct/reporting-sexual-misconduct>

Course Schedule

WEEK I

19 agosto – Introduzione al corso. Vocabolario del cinema

21 agosto – Intro. a neorealismo e vocabolario del cinema

DA GUARDARE PER LA PROSSIMA CLASSE: *Ladri di biciclette**

WEEK II

26 agosto – *Ladri di biciclette*: discussione e esercizi

28 agosto – Neorealismo: altri film e discussione

DA GUARDARE PER IL 4 SETTEMBRE: *I Vitelloni (The Young and the Passionate)**

SETTIMANA III

2 settembre **NON C'È CLASSE**

4 sett. – *I Vitelloni*: discussione e esercizi (*Presentation sign-up sheet will be circulated*)

SETTIMANA IV

9 sett. – *I Vitelloni* e Fellini

11 sett. – Il mondo di Fellini: discussione e esercizi

DA GUARDARE: 8 ½

SETTIMANA V

16 sett. – 8 ½: discussione e esercizi

18 sett. – Il mondo di Fellini

PREPARAZIONI PER LE PRESENTAZIONI

SETTIMANA VI

23 sett. – **1 pres:** *Roma, città aperta* ; *Ossessione*

25 sett. – **2 pres:** *La dolce vita* ; *Amarcord*

DA GUARDARE PER IL 2 OTTOBRE: *Divorzio all'italiana (Divorce, Italian Style)**

SETTIMANA VII

30 sett. – **NON C'È CLASSE (esamino su Canvas)**

2 ottobre – *Divorzio all'italiana* e la commedia all'italiana degli anni '60

DA GUARDARE: *Ieri, Oggi e Domani (Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow)*

SETTIMANA VIII

7 ott. – *Ieri, Oggi e Domani*: discussione e esercizi

9 ott. – Discussione e esercizi

DA GUARDARE: *L'uccello dalle piume di cristallo (The Bird With the Crystal Plumage)*

SETTIMANA IX

14 ott.- *L'uccello dalle piume di cristallo*: Introduzione al giallo

16 ott.- I film di Dario Argento e il Giallo

PREPARAZIONI PER LE PRESENTAZIONI

SETTIMANA X

21 ott. – **3 pres:** *Matrimonio all'italiana*

23 ott. – **4 pres:** *Sei donne per l'assassino ; Suspiria*

DA GUARDARE: VIEWING OF CHOICE! (*see list*)

SETTIMANA XI: Free choice week

28 ott.- Viewing of choice: discussione e presentazioni

30 ott.- Viewing of choice: discussione e presentazioni

DA GUARDARE: *Pasqualino Settebellezze (Seven Beauties)*

SETTIMANA XII

4 novembre- *Pasqualino Settebellezze*: discussione

6 nov.- I film di Lina Wertmuller: discussione e ripasso

DA GUARDARE: *Johnny Stecchino**

SETTIMANA XIII

11 nov. – *Johnny Stecchino*: discussione

13 nov. – Discussione e ripasso

PREPARAZIONI PER LE PRESENTAZIONI

SETTIMANA XIV

18 nov. – *The Seduction of Mimì (Mimì metallurgico ferito nell'onore)*

20 nov. – *Il Mostro ; È stata la mano di Dio*

DA GUARDARE: *La Grande Bellezza (The Great Beauty)*

SETTIMANA XV

25 nov. – 29 nov. – **VACANZA DI RINGRAZIAMENTO**

SETTIMANA XVI

2 dicembre – *La Grande Bellezza* e i film di Sorrentino

4 dic. – *La Grande Bellezza*: discussione e ripasso

*The films with an * will be accompanied by an activity packet that will be handed out in class and turned in for a grade. *

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 11 1:30-3:30

Details on your final exam will be provided mid-semester.