

ITALIAN 3050: ITALIAN CULTURE THROUGH FILM

ITAL 3050.01 FALL 2025

M & W: 2-3:20 pm

LANG 212

Instructor: Molly Sweigart

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Office hours: **W** 3:30-4:30 & **F** 2-3 or by appointment

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. A portable, paper dictionary is always a wonderful and recommended language tool.

REQUIRED VIEWINGS:

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

PRESENTATION VIEWINGS:

1. *Roma, città aperta* (Kanopy)
2. *La dolce vita* (UNT streaming)
3. *Matrimonio all'italiana* (Kanopy)
4. *Sei donne per l'assassino* (AMC)
5. *Mimi metallurgico ferito nell'onore* (Kanopy)
6. *Il Mostro* (Free on Prime)
7. *La strada* (Kanopy)
8. *La vita è bella*
9. *È stata la mano di Dio* (Netflix)
10. *Profondo rosso* (Kanopy)
11. *Benvenuti al sud*

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*, *Netflix* 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.

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 various reoccurring themes
- 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**. Please be sure to follow the syllabus and watch the required viewing **before class and come to class with questions, feedback and completed assigned activities**.

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 and English**. Take time to research each film and a sign-up sheet will be circulated on **Wednesday, September 3** 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.

Prove (quizzes): Periodically throughout the semester short online quizzes will be administered on Canvas. There are 2 pre-scheduled on the syllabus. These quizzes will replace our in-class meetings and you will have the afternoon to complete and submit the quiz.

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 will be turned in for a homework grade. These assignments count towards the homework portion of your final grade and will NOT be accepted late. *All films with a * will be accompanied by an activity packet.

Required and optional handouts, videos and readings may 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. I recommend exchanging information with a classmate(s) in case of absences, questions, etc.

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%
Film Presentation: 20%
Esame Finale: 20%

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

18 agosto – Introduzione al corso e vocabolario del cinema

20 agosto – Intro. a neorealismo e vocabolario del cinema

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

WEEK II

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

27 agosto – *Ladri* e Neorealismo: altri film e discussione

DA GUARDARE PER IL 3 SETTEMBRE: *I Vitelloni* (*The Young and the Passionate*)*

SETTIMANA III

1 settembre **NON C'È CLASSE**

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

SETTIMANA IV

8 sett. – *I Vitelloni* e Fellini

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

DA GUARDARE: *8 1/2*

SETTIMANA V

15 sett. – *8 1/2*: discussione e esercizi

17 sett. – Il mondo di Fellini

PREPARAZIONI PER LE PRESENTAZIONI

SETTIMANA VI

22 sett. – **1 pres:** *Roma, città aperta*

24 sett. – **2 pres:** *La dolce vita*; *La strada*

DA GUARDARE PER IL 1 OTTOBRE: *Divorzio all'italiana* (*Divorce, Italian Style*)*

SETTIMANA VII

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

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

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

SETTIMANA VIII

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

8 ott. – Discussione e esercizi e *Mostri* di Dino Risi

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

SETTIMANA IX

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

15 ott.- I film di Dario Argento e il giallo

PREPARAZIONI PER LE PRESENTAZIONI

SETTIMANA X

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

22 ott. – **4 pres:** *Sei donne per l'assassino* ; *Profondo rosso*

SETTIMANA XI: **Scelta libera o guardiamo un film in classe**

27 ott.- In-class viewing

29 ott.- In-class viewing

DA GUARDARE: *Pasqualino Settebellezze* (*Seven Beauties*)

SETTIMANA XII

3 novembre- **NON C'È CLASSE** (*esamino su Canvas*)

5 nov.- *Pasqualino Settebellezze*: esercizi e discussione

DA GUARDARE: *Johnny Stecchino**

SETTIMANA XIII

10 nov. – *Johnny Stecchino*: discussione

12 nov. – **5 pres:** *Il mostro* ; *La vita è bella*

PREPARAZIONI PER LE PRESENTAZIONI

SETTIMANA XIV

17 nov. – **6 pres:** *The Seduction of Mimì* (*Mimì metallurgico ferito nell'onore*)

19 nov. – **7 pres:** *È stata la mano di Dio* ; *Benvenuti al sud*

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

SETTIMANA XV

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

SETTIMANA XVI

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

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

FINAL EXAM (Canvas): Monday, December 8 1:30-3:30