



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM - FIRENZE

**ITL 340 - CINEMA ITALIANO**

**Italian Cinema**

Spring semester 2020

***Taught in Italian.*** Written assignments and reading materials are in English.

**HOW CINEMA TELLS THE REALITY:  
Italy, from post-war to the present day, through  
some masterpieces of our cinema.**

Professor: Nicola Benedettini

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**MONDAY 6.00 – 8.45 PM in Aula Magna**

**Office hours: Monday from 5.00 to 6.00 PM**

Credits – 3 CSU semester units.

**Location of Course** – California State University, Florence~Via G. Leopardi, 12~50121 Florence, Italy

**Course Description**

Through the presentation of some of the most remarkable Italian directors' films it will be possible to see the history of this country, from post war to present days.

The course offers ideas and thoughts for discussions on issues related to the relationship between cinema and history, society, habits and language. For those interested there will be new publications (essays, magazines), websites, contests and film festivals, cultural activities of various kinds related to the cinema.

**CSU GE category D3 or D5**

**General Course Requirements**

You are responsible for the weekly readings, the information given to you in class, on handouts **and via email**. Part of your grade will be determined by regular attendance, participation in class discussions and active engagement in all activities of this course. ***Make sure to check your email on a regular basis for updates and additional information.***

**Required Books**

**"Italian Cinema from Neorealism to the Present" di Peter Bondanella.**

The book is on reserve in the library.

## Learning Objectives

Students will know:

- the most significant directors and films of Italian cinema, beginning from the post-war period until today
- the most important moments in Italian history, from the post-war period until today, with a particular emphasis on contemporary Italy.

## Learning Outcomes

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

- critically analyze a film by focusing on its content, its cultural context and its realization
- understand the society in which the film was created and produced
- compare cinematic language versus language used by other media

## Grades and Exams

Your grade will be determined by the following assignments:

- Midterm 20%
- Paper 30%
- Final 30%
- Class participation 20%

<b>100-94</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>93-90</b>	<b>A-</b>
<b>89-88</b>	<b>B+</b>
<b>87-83</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>82-80</b>	<b>B-</b>
<b>79-77</b>	<b>C+</b>
<b>76-73</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>72-69</b>	<b>C-</b>
<b>68-67</b>	<b>D+</b>
<b>66-63</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>62-60</b>	<b>D-</b>
<b>59 and below</b>	<b>F</b>

The + and - symbols will be used for grading (except for A+). Specific information about the paper, exams and other projects will be given to you during the semester.

*A Student performance has been outstanding and indicates an exceptional degree of academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

*B Student performance has been at a high level and indicates solid academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

*C Student performance has been adequate and indicates satisfactory academic achievement in meeting learning outcomes and course requirements*

*D Student performance has been less than adequate and indicates deficiencies in meeting the learning outcomes and/or course requirements*

*F Student performance has been unacceptable and indicates a failure to meet the learning outcomes and/or course requirements*

**VERY IMPORTANT: Failure to complete all work and exams assigned in the course could result in failure of the class.**

### **Class Code of Conduct**

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. **Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.**

### **Safety**

All students are expected to respect the safety and security policies in place at CSU Firenze. Students will be expected to follow the procedures outlined by CSU Firenze for the safe use of all spaces, including the upstairs. Refusal to respect these policies and procedures could lead to access restrictions or disciplinary actions.

### **Academic Dishonesty Will Not Be Tolerated.**

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus and also ask me and/ or the Resident Director for more information.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Upon identifying yourself to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluations. For more information, contact the Resident Director.

### **Attendance**

#### **“3 – Hour” Attendance Policy 2019-2020 (for classes that meet once a week for 3 hours)**

Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. One unexcused absence is allowed during the semester but more than one unexcused absence will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **TWO** unexcused absences, lowers by 1.5 letter grades (i.e., B to C-); **THREE** unexcused absences, lowers by 3 letter grades (i.e., A to D). More than **THREE unexcused absences could result in failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding **five** minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of mid-term and final exams **can not** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips after the last exam. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these exam dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these exam dates. **Missing the midterm or the final exam could result in failure of the course.**

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

### **Optional class policies:**

Use of computer in class is restricted to oral presentations, unless previously approved by the professor.

**Eating** is **NOT** allowed in class.

Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on ***silent mode*** during class.

### **Important: Exams**

You must attend all exams and quizzes as scheduled. Make-up exams are given only for valid reasons. Please check your academic calendar **BEFORE** you book trips, flights and hotels.

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### **Copyright and Privacy Laws**

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

**In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used in any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.**

### **Changes- Important**

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

### **Class Calendar**

#### **1 Lesson - 24/February**

Post-war Italy: Neorealism's objectivity  
**Film: "Ladri di biciclette" (1948) – V.De Sica**

#### **2 Lesson - 02/March**

Italy in the '50s: the "Commedia all'italiana"  
**Film: "I soliti ignoti" (1958) – M.Monicelli**

#### **3 Lesson - 09/March**

Italy in the '60s: the "Golden age" of Italian Cinema: Federico Fellini's symbolism  
**Film: "La dolce vita" (1960) – F.Fellini (I)**

#### **4 Lesson - 16/March**

Italy in the '60s  
**Film: "La dolce vita" (1960) – F. Fellini (II)**

<b>5 Lesson – 23/March</b>	Relationship between Cinema and Society: Napoli and Gomorra <b>Film: “Gomorra” (2006) – M. Garrone</b>
<b>6 Lesson - 30/ March</b>	The crisis of the ‘70s <b>Film: “Romanzo criminale” (2005) – Placido</b>
<b>7 Lesson – 06/ April</b>	<b>MID – TERM EXAM</b>
<b><u>10 – 19 April</u></b>	<b><u>SPRING BREAK</u></b>
<b>8 Lesson – 20/April</b>	Italy between the ‘80s and ‘90s: the social, political and cultural revolution <b>Film: “Lamerica” (1994) – G.Amelio</b>
<b>9 Lesson – 27/April</b>	Contemporary Italy: the new look of the emerging filmmakers <b>Film: “La febbre” (2005) – A. d’Alatri</b>
<b>10 Lesson – 04/May</b>	Contemporary Italy: the new look of the emerging filmmakers <b>Film: “La grande bellezza” (2013) – Paolo Sorrentino (I)</b>
<b>11 Lesson – 11/May</b>	Contemporary Italy: emerging filmmakers <b>Film: “La grande bellezza” (2013) – Paolo Sorrentino (II)</b>
<b>12 Lesson –18/May</b>	<b>LECTURE</b>
<b>13 Lesson – 25-28/May</b>	<b><u>FINAL EXAM</u> - exact day and time to be announced</b>