New Course Proposal

ITA 572 Italian History and Society in Italian Cinema: 1930 to the present 3 cr.

This course will explore Italian history from 1930 to the present, and changes in Italian society within this historical period as reflected in Italian cinema. Selected Italian films will serve to investigate the shaping of Italian society from the period of Fascism and its propaganda through the changes that occurred in the post-war decades: from the “Resistance,” the economic boom of the sixties, the “lead years” in the Seventies, the “Second Republic”, and the contemporary phenomenon of immigration. **P: One 300-level ITA course or IC.**

Course objectives:
1. Students will be able to discuss Italian history, and society by screening selected Italian films.
2. Students will be able to identify specific movements, and genres of Italian cinema (i.e. the term “Neorealism” reflects both a cultural movement in the arts, and a historical period).
3. Students will develop their critical skills through the viewing of selected films.

Course topics:
A selection of Italian films will reflect the following decades and aspects of Italian history or society:
1. 1930. Fascism and propaganda. The creation of the “Middle Class.”
2. 1940. The “Resistance,” and the beginning of “Neorealism.” The experience of War, and the reconstruction of Italy.
3. 1950. “Neorealism” and the Fifties: hope and marginalization in the new Italy.
4. 1960. The “boom” years and the North-South divide. Internal immigration from South to North, industrial growth of the cities, and the influence of industrialization on provincial life.

Course requirements
Regular and active participation in class 15%

Three essays (on a film reflecting a specific topic related to the period discussed in class. The film, however, must be chosen from a list of films not discussed during class). 40%

Midterm 15%
Oral presentation 15%
Final 15%

Grading Criteria

F “Failure – no credit (60% average)

- Extreme lack of clarity or lack of coherence of argument or expression of thought.
- Disregard for the requirements of the assignment.
- Irrelevant use or failure to use relevant course readings.
- Submission of another's words or thoughts as if they were your own, whether in the form of plagiarism or failure to acknowledge the source of an idea.
• Very poor class attendance with no participation in discussions.

D “Work of inferior quality, but passing” (60 to <70% average)

• Unclarity or incoherence of argument or expression of thought.
• Failure to satisfy the requirements of the assignment.
• Poor or inadequate understanding or use of relevant course readings.
• Improper acknowledgment or citation of the sources of your ideas.
• Poor class attendance with little or no participation in discussions.

C “Satisfactory work” (77 to <80% average for a C+; 70 to <77% average for a C.)

• Basic clarity and coherence of argument and expression of thought.
• Satisfaction of the assignment’s basic requirements.
• Fair or adequate understanding of the major views and theories in the relevant course readings and the arguments presented in support of those views and theories.
• Minimally clear and coherent evaluation of the views and arguments in the relevant course readings.
• Minimally proper acknowledgment and citation of the sources of your ideas.
• Generally consistent class attendance with occasional participation in discussions.

B “Noteworthy level of performance” (87 to <89% average for a B+; 80 to <87% average for a B)

Demonstrates all of the qualities of satisfactory work plus:

• Good, above average clarity and coherence of argument and expression of thought.
• Clear, logical organization of the essay’s introduction, body, and conclusion.
• Clear, detailed, and accurate understanding of the major views and theories in the relevant course readings and of the arguments presented in support of those views and theories.
• Good attempt to provide argumentative support for your evaluation of the views, theories, and arguments presented in the relevant course readings.
• Regular, consistent class attendance with regular, good participation in discussions.

A “Outstanding achievement and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative” (90% average or above)

Demonstrates all of the qualities of noteworthy performance plus:

• Excellent, superior clarity and coherence of argument and expression of thought.
• Clear, rigorous, and cogent argumentative support for your evaluation of the views, theories, and arguments presented in the relevant course readings.
• Originality and creativity of interpretation, explanation, argumentation, or criticism.
• Superior class attendance with consistent, excellent, and thoughtful participation in discussions.

Academic Honesty Policy

Students enrolled in courses at Creighton University are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic conduct. The professor will therefore be alert to any kind of cheating or plagiarism, i.e. presenting as one’s own the work of another. This includes the use of any electronic device, software, or internet translator. Any student who cheats on an exam or essay will receive a grade of
zero for the assignment. In addition will be reported to the Dean and placed in your permanent record. Read Creighton policy regarding this at: http://puffin.creighton.edu/ucas/Students/students.html

Class Cancellation Procedures

Should a class be canceled when the University is open, the department Administrative Assistant (280 2508) will be notifies and a notice will be posted through email. Students will refer to the assignment on the syllabus to prepare for the next class, when the course resumes.

Schedule

Week Jan.11  Introduction to the course. Russo. Breve storia del cinema italiano, pp.7-59. Film La tavola dei poveri, 1932

Week Jan. 16  Fascism and Propaganda. Russo, p. 61-83
Film Seconda B

Week Jan. 23  Film I grandi magazzini

Film Roma città aperta (1945)

Week Feb. 6  Film Riso amaro (1948)

Film I vitelloni (1953)  First essay due

Week Feb. 20  Film Le amiche (1955)

Week Feb. 27  The “boom” years and the North-South Divide. Russo, p. 123-174
Film Il posto (1961)

Week Mar. 12  Film Sedotta e abbandonata (1964)

Film Travolti da un insolito destino (1974) Second essay due

Week Mar. 26  Film Cadaveri eccellenti (1976)


Film Come te nessuno mai (1999)

Week Apr. 16  New Immigration wave (1990-present). Film Lamerica (1994)
Third essay due

Week Apr. 23  The present of Italy. Film Pranzo di ferragosto (2009)

Final Exam