

**ITALIAN FILM  
FALL 2014  
Professor Jacqueline Reich  
TF: 1:00-2:15 pm  
FMH 232**

**COURSE GUIDELINES**

**Texts:**

*The Italian Cinema Book*, Ed. Peter Bondanella (abbreviated as ICB in the syllabus)  
*The Cinema of Italy*, Ed. Giorgio Bertellini (edited as CI in the syllabus)  
*Beyond the Latin Lover: Marcello Mastroianni, Masculinity, and Italian Cinema*, Jacqueline Reich  
Articles on Blackboard unless otherwise indicated  
Films on reserve in the library, or on Google Drive as indicated in the syllabus

1) **CLASS DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:** This class examines both the “greatest hits” of Italian cinema from the silent era to the present, as well as the more popular genres such as the *commedia all’italiana*, Spaghetti Westerns, and Italian Horror. Close attention will be paid to the concepts of national cinema, stardom, auteur theory, cinema and politics, and the development of other mass media in relation to cinema. No knowledge of Italian is required. This course counts for the Communication and Media Studies Major and Minor, as well as the Italian Studies major.

**Objectives:**

- To learn about the history of Italian cinema from the silent era to the present
- To understand how films interact with the cultural, historical, political and economic contexts in which they were made
- To understand what defines a national film production
- To apply basic concepts in film theory to Italian films
- To produce an original research paper

2) **CLASS STRUCTURE:** The course meets on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1:00-2:15 pm. You are expected to conduct yourselves as responsible students and adults in this class: please arrive on time, not talk amongst yourselves, and not disrupt the class in any unruly fashion. **ALL CELLPHONES, BLACKBERRIES, IPHONES, AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS TIME, EXCEPT WHEN INSTRUCTED BY THE PROFESSOR. COMPUTERS AND IPADS ARE ALLOWED IN CLASS ONLY WITH PERMISSION FROM THE INSTRUCTOR.**

3) **ASSIGNMENTS AND MATERIALS:** The films are our primary texts and are to be viewed on your own. Most will be on reserve in Walsh Library; others will be in a shared Google Drive folder, accessible with your Fordham email account. Please make sure you download VLC so that you can view the films. Many of the films are also available on-line from LEGAL sources such as Netflix ([www.netflix.com](http://www.netflix.com)), iTunes., and amazon.com, including Amazon Prime. Students should watch the films and complete all the readings by the day they are due, as listed in the syllabus.

You will be required to have a twitter account for the class. It can be attached to your Fordham email, or another email address. Please follow me @Profjreich, and I will follow you. The class’s hashtag is #COMM3412 – make sure you put this hashtag in all your tweets. Please also **LIKE** me

and the CMS Department on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/jacqueline.reich.90> and [www.facebook.com/FordhamCMS](http://www.facebook.com/FordhamCMS).

4) **BLACKBOARD**: Everything pertaining to the class – syllabus, links to films, external links – will be available on **BLACKBOARD**. Please make sure that you check it EVERY DAY for course information. You can access Blackboard itself from the [my.fordham.edu](http://my.fordham.edu) portal by clicking on the Blackboard icon at the top right, or going directly to [fordham.blackboard.com](http://fordham.blackboard.com).

#### 5) **CLASS WORK AND GRADES**:

a) **ATTENDANCE**: 10%. This includes physical presence and class participation.

b) **ASSIGNMENTS**: 30%. Throughout the semester, after the first full week of classes, students will be responsible for:

10%: presentations of the readings.

10%: live tweeting a film

10%: responding to the live tweets of the film

**Presentations of the readings**: Students will be required to present two readings by summarizing the main argument and applying it to the film under discussion.

**Live tweeting a film**: Each student will be responsible for live tweeting a film as they watch it for class: a minimum of five tweets is required, in which you say something that intrigues you about the film, links to other films, hashtags, etc. The other students are then responsible for responding to at least one of those tweets. NB: this is new for me, and there may be tweaks here and there to make this run efficiently.

c) **MIDTERM EXAM**: 20%

d) **FINAL PAPER AND PRESENTATION**: 40%. Students will delve into one subject that interests them and we have not covered in class: an Italian genre, an auteur, a star, a period, etc. Students will produce an original, 10-12 page research paper on the subject. Throughout the semester, the students are expected to meet with Prof. Reich to go over the project, write an abstract and outline, present a bibliography and filmography, and then present their work to the class after Thanksgiving.

6) **ATTENDANCE POLICY**: Students are expected to attend every class. If you know you will miss a class for religious reasons or required participation in a university sponsored-event please let me know in advance via email. If you are ill or there is a family emergency, please contact me via email as well. If you have more than two unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered one step (e.g. from an A to an A-), regardless of your cumulative total.

7) **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**: Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful, and responsible manner. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on exams, falsification, unapproved collaboration, and destruction of library materials. For more information on what specifically constitutes violations of academic integrity and the university's policy toward violations of academic integrity, see:

<http://www.fordham.edu/undergraduateacademicintegrity>.



Readings: ICB, Part III, 75-101

ON YOUR OWN: *Rome, Open City* (1945); *Bicycle Thieves* (if you haven't seen it)

9.26 Discussion of *Rome, Open City*

Readings: Reading: Peter Bondanella, "The Making of *Roma città aperta*"

9.30 Neorealism and Beyond

Readings: ICB, Part III, 108-132; CI, 53-62

ON YOUR OWN: *Riso amaro* (Bitter Rice, 1948)

10.3 Neorealism in a Transnational Context

Readings: CI, 73-82; Brennan, "Advertising and Promoting Italian Cinema in Postwar America"

#### WEEK VI: The 1950s

10.7 Comedy, Italian Style

Readings: ICB, 149-162, 188-194

ON YOUR OWN: *Big Deal on Madonna Street* (I soliti ignoti, 1958)

10.10 Comedies and Stars

Readings: Landy, "Popular Genres and Stars"

#### WEEK VII and VIII: the 1960s and Auteur Cinema

10.14 MIDTERM EXAM

10.17 The auteur theory and Italian Cinema

Readings: Peter Wollen, "From *Signs and Meaning in the Cinema: The Auteur Theory*"; Sitney, "Annus Mirabilis"

ON YOUR OWN: *Rocco and His Brothers* (1961)

10.21 Discussion of *Rocco and His Brothers*

Readings: CI, 93-102

10.24 Spaghetti Westerns

Readings: CI, 163-171; CIB, 181-187

ON YOUR OWN: *A Fistful of Dollars* (Sergio Leone, 1964)

#### WEEK IX and X: Italian stars – Marcello Mastroianni and Sophia Loren

10.28 Stars and Directors

ON YOUR OWN: students' choice: Fellini's *La dolce vita* or 8 ½ (or both??)

Readings: Reich, 1-23

10.31 Readings: Reich, 24-48 and/or 78-104

11.4 Sophia Loren

Readings: Gundle, "Sophia Loren, Italian Icon"; Reich, 104-139

ON YOUR OWN: *Marriage, Italian Style* (1964)

11.7 NO CLASS –Follow Prof. Reich at the Mastroianni Conference in Turin,  
Italy

WEEK XI and XII: the 1970s: Exploration and Exploitation

- 11.11 Italian Horror  
Readings: Raiford Guins, “Blood and Black Gloves on Shiny Disks”  
ON YOUR OWN: *Deep Red* (Dario Argento, 1975)
- 11.14 Discussion of *Deep Red*  
Reading: CI, 213-222; ICB, 203-210
- 11.18 Cinema, Fascism and the Holocaust  
Readings: ICB, 254-259  
ON YOUR OWN: *Seven Beauties* (Lina Wertmüller, 1975)  
Recommended viewing: *Life is Beautiful* (Roberto Benigni, 1998)
- 11.21 Discussion of Wertmuller  
Readings: Bettelheim, “Surviving; Astle, “Seven Beauties: Survival, Lina-  
style”,  
<http://www.ejumpcut.org/archive/onlinesays/JC15folder/7Beauties.html>;

WEEK XIII: TV and Cinema

- 11.25 Television, cinema, and politics  
Readings: Stille, Excerpts from *The Sack of Rome*  
ON YOUR OWN: *Citizen Berlusconi*:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSw1pu3IcBE>

**11.28 NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING**

WEEK XIV and V

- 12.2 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
- 12.5 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS
- 12.9 STUDENT PRESENTATIONS