2021 Virtual Summer Abroad Program (August 3 to September 2)

CIN378Y0 - THE ITALIAN CINEMATIC CITY: A GRAND TOUR

Course Description:
This course is inspired by, and comments on, the tradition of the “Grand Tour” of Italy, of which it follows the commonest trajectory from North to South in the attempt of recreating the experience of the many illustrious grand tourists who traced it. We will see Venice, Florence, and Rome, through the lenses of many great filmmakers who, across the decades, have engaged with their unique urban fabric, their monuments and landmarks, their streets, their culture, and their climate. We will ponder the implications of location shooting, the ethics of geographic manipulations, the idea of the city as character or as genre, and the phenomenon of cinematic tourism. The selected readings are compiled from an array of sources that include film studies, urban studies, literary fiction and non-fiction, art treatises, and poetry. This variety is intended to provide us with information on the films screened, as well as on the many clips and excerpts we will watch, but also on the cultural climate that influenced the filmmakers’ perception of the cities in which they were shooting and their relation with the classic texts of the Grand Tour. Taught in English and including film screenings.

Student Profile:
This class is designed for students of all majors, inasmuch as it is highly interdisciplinary in nature, and does not require any previous knowledge or understanding of film theory and history. Because of the broadness of the approach and the variety of texts considered, the course can cater to students with an interest in film, architecture, urban studies, art history, and literature.

Course Requirements:
Attendance is mandatory as per Study Abroad policy, and will be taken at each class.
Class Attendance: 10%
250-Word Scene Blurb 30% (3x10%)
1000-Word Essay 30%
Take-Home Test 30%

Textbooks:

INTRODUCTION: MILAN
THE CITY FILM, THEORETICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Tuesday, August 3rd
The (Italian) City Film: Milan
Screening: Stramilano (D’Errico, 1929)
Gli uomini, che mascalzoni! (Camerini 1932)
Clips:  
*Berlin, Symphony of a Great City* (Ruttman 1927)  
*Manhatta* (Strand & Sheeler 1921)  
*I grandi magazzini* (Camerini 1939)

Readings:  

**PART ONE: VENICE**  
**THE CITY AS CHARACTER, VOICE, AND GENRE**

**Wednesday, August 4th**  
Francesco Pasinetti: Venezianità and the Poetic Documentary  
Screening:  
*Venezia Minore* (Pasinetti 1942)  
*I piccioni di Venezia* (Pasinetti 1942)  
*Riflessi* (Cardazzo 1936)  
*Il poeta, la fanciulla e la laguna* (Gallone 1922)

Clips:  
*Man of Aran* (Flaherty 1934)  
*Scene della strada* (Cardazzo 1936)  
*Il Canale degli Angeli* (Pasinetti 1942)  
*Piazza San Marco* (Pasinetti 1942)  
*La Gondola* (Pasinetti 1942)  
*Venice: Themes and Variations* (Ivory 1957)  
*Intervals* (Greenaway 1969)

Readings:  
Pigott, TBD.

**Thursday, August 5th**  
Genre Film Part 1: The Tourist Film  
Screening:  
*Summertime* (Lean 1955)

Clips:  
*Three Coins in the Fountain* (Negulescu 1954)  
*Everyone Says I Love You* (Allen 1996)  
*Just Married* (Levy 2003)

Readings:  
Robert Browning, *A Toccata of Galuppi’s*
Pigott, TBD.

Monday, August 9th – FIRST SCENE BLURB DUE
Genre Film Part 2: Thriller, Horror, Heist, and Action Movies
Screening: Don’t Look Now (Roeg 1973)

Clips: The Assassin/Venetian Bird (Thomas, 1952)
Eva (Losey 1963)
From Russia With Love (Young 1963)
Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (Spielberg 1989)
The Comfort of Strangers (Schrader 1993)
Casino Royale (Campbell 2006)
The Italian Job (Gray 2003)

Pigott, TBD.

Tuesday, August 10th
Venice in Adaptation: Highbrow, Lowbrow, Middlebrow
Screening: Death in Venice (Visconti 1971)

Clips: Nosferatu a Venezia (Caminito 1988)
The Talented Mr. Ripley (Minghella 1999)

Readings: Thomas Mann, Death in Venice, 1912. Excerpts.
Pigott, TBD.

PART THREE: FLORENCE
THE CITY AS MYTHIC DESTINATION, ALLEGORY, AND DREAM

Wednesday, August 11th
Florence and the Anglo-American Grand Tourist, Part 1
Screening: A Room with a View (Ivory 1985)

Clips: Light in the Piazza (Green 1962)
Hannibal (Scott 2001)
The Portrait of a Lady (Campion 1996)


Thursday, August 12th
Florence and the Anglo-American Grand Tourist, Part 2
Screening: Tea with Mussolini (Zeffirelli 1999)


Readings: Zambenedetti, TBD.

PART FOUR: ROME
THE CITY AS ARCHITECTURAL PALIMPSEST, CENTER, AND PERIPHERY

Monday, August 16th – SECOND SCENE BLURB DUE
Rome and the Second World War
Screening: Rome Open City (Rossellini 1945)


Tuesday, August 17th
The Quintessential Neorealist City
Screening: Ladri di Biciclette (De Sica 1948)

Clips: Umberto D. (De Sica 1952)

**Wednesday, August 18th**

**Hollywood on the Tiber: Rome in/and Genre Film**

Screening: *Roman Holiday* (Wyler 1953)

Clips: *Three Coins in the Fountain* (Negulescu 1954)
*Eva* (Losey 1963)
*Equilibrium* (Wimmer 2002)
*The Da Vinci Code* (Howard 2006)

Solomons, TBD.

**Thursday, August 19th**

**Documenting the Cinematic City**

Screening: *Voi siete qui* (Matera, 2011)

Readings: Solomons, TBD

**PART FIVE:**

**TRAVELLING ACROSS ITALY**

**Monday, August 23rd – THIRD SCENE BLURB DUE**

**Travelling Across the Neorealist Landscape, Part 1**

Screening: *Paisà* (Rossellini, 1946)

Readings: Zambenedetti, TDB
Muscio, *Paisà* (Q)
Shiel, *Neorealism’s First Phase* (Q)

**Tuesday, August 24th**

**Travelling Across the Neorealist Landscape, Part 2**

Screening: *The Path of Hope* (Germi 1950)

Readings: Bazin, *The Road to Hope* (Q)
Rascaroli, *Remapping the Neorealist Nation: Il cammino della Speranza and the Rhetorics of the Road to Realism* (Q)
Shiel, *Neorealism and the City* (Q)

**Wednesday, August 25th**

**The Italian (Episodic) City Film**

Screening: *Ieri, oggi, domani* (De Sica, 1963)

Readings: Reich, *The Inetto versus the Unruly Woman: Mastroianni and Sophia Loren* (Q)
Solomons, TBD

PART SIX:
AUTEURS AND THE CINEMATIC CITY

Thursday, August 26th
Pasolini’s Rome:
Screening: Accattone (Pasolini 1961)

Clips: Mamma Roma (Pasolini 1962)
La comare secca (Bertolucci 1962)
Caro Diario (Moretti 1993)

Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007. 1-75
Solomons, TBD.

Monday, August 30th – ESSAY DUE
Antonioni’s Rome
Screening: L’Eclisse (Antonioni 1962)

Clips: L’Avventura (Antonioni 1960)
Roma (Antonioni 1989)

Solomons, TBD.

Tuesday, August 31st
Fellini’s Rome:
Screening: Roma (Fellini 1972)

Clips: Le Notti di Cabiria (Fellini 1957)
La Dolce Vita (Fellini 1959)
Le tentazioni del Dottor Antonio (Fellini 1962)


**Tuesday, September 1st**

Public Intimacy: Rome and its Architecture as Art Gallery

Screening: *The Belly of an Architect* (Greenaway 1986)

Clips: *Titus* (Taymor 1999)


Solomons, TBD.

**CODA:**

SEE NAPLES AND THEN DIE

**Thursday, September 2nd – TAKE HOME TEST DUE**

The End of the Grand Tour(ist)

Screening: *Viaggio in Italia* (Rossellini 1954)

Clips: *Paisà* (Rossellini 1946)

*Assunta Spina* (Sereni 1915)

*Le mani sulla città* (Rosi 1963)

*L’uomo in più* (Sorrentino 2001)

*Gomorrah* (Garrone 2008)

Select Bibliography:


