2020 Italy, Siena Summer Abroad Program (August 1 to September 3)

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 Participation: 10%
250-Word Scene Blurb 30% (3x10%)
1000-Word Essay 30%
Final Test 30%

Textbooks:

Introduction: The City Film, Theoretical and Historical Background

Monday, August 3rd

The (Italian) City Film
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)


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

Tuesday, 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)

John Ruskin, St. Mark's rest: the history of Venice, written for the help of the few travellers who still care for her monuments, 1901. Excerpts.  
Pigott, TBD.

Wednesday, August 5th

Genre Film Part 1: the Tourist Film  
Screening: Summertime (Lean 1955)

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

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

Thursday, August 6th

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)
The Comfort of Strangers (Schrader 1993)
Casino Royale (Campbell 2006)
The Italian Job (Gray 2003)
Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (Spielberg 1989)
From Russia With Love (Young 1963)

Readings:
Pigott, TBD.

Friday, August 7th and Saturday, August 8th: Field Trip 1: Venice

Monday, August 10th: FIRST SCENE BLURB DUE

Venice in Adaptation: Highbrow, Lowbrow, Middlebrow
Screening: Death in Venice (Visconti 1971)

Clips: The Talented Mr. Ripley (Minghella 1999)
Purple Noon (Clément 1960)
Nosferatu a Venezia (Caminito 1988)

Readings:
Thomas Mann, Death in Venice, 1912. Excerpts.
Pigott, TBD.
**Tuesday, August 11th:**

Genre Film Part 3: the Romantic Comedy  
**Screening:** *Pane e tulipani* (Soldini 2000)  
**Clips:** *Only You* (Jewison 1994)  
**Readings:** Pigott, TBD.

**PART TWO: FLORENCE & SIENA**
**THE CITY AS MYTHIC DESTINATION, ALLEGORY, AND DREAM**

**Wednesday, August 12th:**

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)  
**Readings:** E.M. Forster, *A Room with a View.*  
Robert Browning, *Fra Lippo Lippi* and *Andrea Del Sarto.*  
Zambenedetti, TBD.

**Thursday, August 13th:**

Florence and the Anglo-American Grand Tourist, Part 2  
**Screening:** *Tea with Mussolini* (Zeffirelli 1999)  
**Clips:** *Under the Tuscan Sun* (Wells 2003)  
*Ciao America* (Ciota 2002)  
**Readings:** Zambenedetti, TBD.

**Friday, August 14th: Field Trip 2: Florence**

**Monday, August 17th: SECOND SCENE BLURB DUE**

Florence: Fascism, WWII, and the Postwar City  
**Screening:** *Cronache di poveri amanti* (Lizzani, 1954)  
**Clips:** *Paisà* (Rossellini 1946)
Readings: Zambenedetti, TBD.

**Tuesday, August 18th:**

Siena: the Costume Drama

Screening: *Prince of Foxes* (King, 1949)

Clips: *Romola* (King, 1924)

Readings: Zambenedetti, TBD.

**Wednesday, August 19th:**

Tuscany: the Tuscan Brothers

Screening: *Il prato* (Taviani, 1979)

Clips: TBD

Readings: Zambenedetti, TBD.

**Part Three:**

**Rome: The City as Architectural Palimpsest, Center, and Periphery**

**Thursday, August 20th:**

Rome, Quintessential Neorealist City:

Screening: *Ladri di Biciclette* (De Sica 1948)

Clips: *Paisà* (Rossellini 1946)  
*Roma città aperta* (Rossellini 1944)  
*Umberto D.* (De Sica 1952)

Solomons, TBD.
Friday, August 21st: Siena Urban Safari

Monday, August 24th: THIRD SCENE BLURB DUE

Pasolini’s Rome:
 Screening: *Accattone* (Pasolini 1961)

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

Solomons, TBD.

Tuesday, August 25th:

Antonioni’s Rome

Screening: *L’Eclisse* (Antonioni 1962)

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

Solomons, TBD.

Wednesday, August 26th:

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)

Solomons, TBD.

Thursday, August 27th: ESSAY DUE

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)  
Mission Impossible III (Abrams 2006)  
The Da Vinci Code (Howard 2006)

Solomons, TBD.

Friday, August 28th: Field Trip 3: Rome

Monday, August 31st:

Public Intimacy: Rome and its Architecture as Art Gallery  
Screening: The Belly of an Architect (Greenaway 1986)

Clips: Titus (Taymor 1999)

Solomons, TBD.

**PART FOUR**

**NAPLES: MEDITERRANEAN IDENTITIES**

**Tuesday, September 1st: FINAL TEST**

See Naples and Die: 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)

Solomons, TBD.

**Wednesday, September 2nd:**

One for the road: the Italian City Film, Revisited

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

Clips: TBD

**Select Bibliography:**


Pasinetti, Francesco and Puccini, Gianni. La Regia Cinematografica, Venice: Rialto, 1945.