COURSE OUTLINE

Italian 130
Italian Culture and Civilization through Cinema

I. Catalog Statement

Italian 130 analyzes the social, economic, religious and political evolution of Italian culture as seen through Italian cinema from the beginning of the 20th century to the present.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0
Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0
Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 101.

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening/Speaking 5; Math 1.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:
1. identify the alterations used to adapt a piece of literature to the medium of film;
2. distinguish the difference between past and current mores in Italian society;
3. analyze the role of the Church in Italian society and its transformation through the decades;
4. analyze the changing roles of men and women in Italian society.

IV. Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48

A. The Differences of Languages 3 hours
   1. High and low Italian
   2. Regional differences of accents and dialects

B. Italian and American Cinema: Similarities, Differences and Reciprocal Influences 3 hours
   1. Italy as groundbreaker in cinematography
   2. The Hollywood myth

Suggested film:
Scorsese: My Voyage to Italy (Il mio viaggio in Italia - 1999)

C. Italy at the Beginning of the 20th Century (1900 – 1921) 3 hours
   1. Political and socio-economical background
   2. The condition of the working class
   3. World War I
      Suggested films:
      Pastrone: Cabiria (1914)
      Taviani: Kaos (1984)

D. The Mussolini Era (1921-1943) 4 hours
   1. Virility
   2. Fascist propaganda
   3. Colonization
   4. Glorification of Rome
   5. Unrealistic depictions of society in the fascist-era movies
      Suggested films:
      Gallone: Scipio Africanus (1937)
      Camerini: Il Signor Max (1936)

E. Civil War in Italy after the Armistice (1943-1945) 8 hours
   1. The partisan fight against German occupation
   2. Partisan propaganda
   3. American occupation and liberation: excitement and disillusion
   4. Building a new society
      Suggested films:
      Rossellini: Open City (Roma Città’ Aperta - 1945)
      Tornatore: Malena (2000)
      De Sica: Two Women (La Ciociara - 1960)
      Benigni: Life is Beautiful (La Vita e’ bella - 1997)

F. The Reconstruction Years (1946-1957) 7 hours
   1. The birth of the Republic
   2. The communist threat
   3. End of the colonial period
   4. The new constitution and women’s rights
   5. The condition of the working class
   6. Resistance to industrialization
      Suggested films:
      De Sica: Shoeshine (Sciuscia’ - 1946)
      Rossellini: Voyage to Italy (Viaggio in Italia – 1953)
      Tucci: Big Night (1996)

G. The Economic Boom (1958-1970) 7 hours
   1. TV: The unifying media
   2. The raise of Capitalism
   3. A new wealth
4. The family institution and its crisis
5. Organized crime and political corruption
   
   Suggested films:
   
   Monicelli: Big Deal on Madonna Street (I soliti ignoti - 1958)
   De Sica: Marriage Italian Style (Matrimonio all’Italiana – 1964)
   Fellini: La Dolce Vita (1960)

H. The “Lead Years” (1968-1980s) 6 hours
1. The great fear: terrorist attacks from Italian leftist and right wing groups
2. The crisis of political institutions
3. The oil crisis: a weakened Italy
4. Struggle between the different classes in the society
   
   Suggested films:
   
   Petri: Investigation of a Citizen Above Suspicion
   (Indagine su un cittadino al di sopra di ogni sospetto – 1969)
   Wertmuller: Swept Away (Travolti da un insolito destino - 1974)

I. The “New” Italy (1990 – to present) 7 hours
1. The end of the First Republic
2. Active member of the European Community – Euro: love and hate relationship
3. Italy as one of the eight most industrialized nations in the world
   
   Suggested films:
   
   Ozpetek: Facing Windows (La Finestra di fronte – 2003)
   Soldini: Bread and Tulips (Pane e tulipani - 2000)
   Tornatore: The Star Maker (L’uomo delle stelle – 1995)
   Benigni: Johnny Toothpick (Johnny Stecchino - 1991)
   Wertmuller: Ciao Professore (Io speriamo che me la cavo – 1992)
   Sorrentino: The Great Beauty (La grande bellezza - 2013)

V. Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:
1. class lecture and discussion;
2. group learning;
3. multimedia and online presentations;
4. films, followed by in class discussion.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:
1. assigned readings (e.g. read the novel Two Women by Alberto Moravia);
2. write essays on a determined topic (e.g. compare and contrast the differences between the novel Two Women and its cinematic adaption by Vittorio de Sica);
3. prepare topics for discussion in class (e.g. take notes on the representation of machismo and the role of “man” in Open City and Facing Windows).
VII. **Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:
1. comparative essays;
2. active class participation;
3. midterm exam;
4. final exam.

VIII. **Textbooks**


IX. **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:
1. analyze the changes in the roles of men and women and the mores of Italian society from the 1900’s to the present day;
2. analyze the differences between an original literary work and its cinematic translation.