



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of Italian and French Studies

ITALST 391 Spring 2021

Italian Cinema and the Novel

Asynchronous lectures posted on Learn, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6.30 pm

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Yuri M. Sangalli
Office: SH 2112 (N/A this semester)
Phone: N/A this semester
Office Hours: I will be available on Fridays, 3.00-4.00 pm, through Zoom. Please make sure you book in advance (instructions and link to be posted in Learn). Alternative: by appointment.
Email: ✉ ymsangalli@uwaterloo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome, benvenuti a tutti! This course explores Italian novel and cinema. Following an introduction to film narration and film style, we shall discuss the beginnings of Italian cinema and the development of important Italian cinematic trends, such as neorealism. We shall then examine the adaptation on the big screen of various Italian novels in the context of a few basic principles of adaptation theory.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon **successful** completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Discuss film adaptations of canonical works in Italian twentieth-century literature.
 - Understand adaptation theories in relation to cinema and the Italian novel. Learn the appropriate methodology and terminology in film analysis.
- B. Appreciate aspects of Italian cinema
 - Understand the dynamics behind the beginnings of Italian cinema.
 - Form an appreciation of major Italian cinematic trends (e.g. Neorealism, New Italian Cinema)
- C. Discuss end-of- twentieth century crossbreeding between Italian cinema and the novel
 - Understand the influence of cinematic techniques on the Italian novel. Explore the collaboration of novelists and directors in adapting a novel to its film version.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (LEVEL TWO)

Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

- Describe key eras in Italian Studies (Italian Studies is here construed to include aspects of Italian literature, theatre, visual arts, history, and philosophy).
- Develop knowledge of the most important literary and artistic works/texts ('texts' is here interpreted in its widest connotation possible e.g., performance texts, artistic texts etc.) in the context of the above-mentioned eras.

Knowledge of Methodologies

- Use historical and philosophical knowledge to contextualize key texts in Italian studies.
- Conduct basic research about the different interpretations of key texts in Italian Studies.

Application of Knowledge

- Build and enhance understanding of intertextual references within Italian Studies texts.

Awareness of Limits of Knowledge

- Demonstrate awareness of limits of ideas conveyed in certain texts written in different eras.

Communication Skills

- Demonstrate effective writing about different themes in Italian Studies.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND VIDEORECORDINGS

- Weekly **required** readings, available in Learn
- A selection of **required** documentary videorecordings containing important information, and six **required** feature films. Titles as posted in Learn (under weekly content, where links will be provided) and in the course schedule below, where an asterisk* indicates that the film/videorecording posted is **required**.
- Additional "strongly recommended", and suggested readings and videorecordings will be made available, as needed.
- Read one of the selected course novels (essay requirement; instructions forthcoming).

The lecture material for this course will refer to the novels that inspired the films students will view. The emphasis, however, is going to be on the films. You are strongly encouraged to read as many of the novels mentioned as possible, but, **apart from your chosen essay topic** (see above), you are **not expected** to do so for the purpose of this course. **Aside from what will be mentioned during our lectures (including information disseminated through the PowerPoints) you will not be tested on the novels *per se*, but on their film adaptations.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Midterm Test	June 17	25%
Essay	July 8	30%
Zoom live group presentation	July 15 or July 20 (pick one date; flexible time schedule, TBD)	10%
Final Test	August 4 (Wednesday)	25%
Participation in discussions	Weekly, throughout the course. Online (via Discussion Board in Learn)	10%
Total		100%

READINGS, VIDEORECORDINGS, LECTURES, AND WEEKLY PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSIONS

Each week, specific readings (consult course outline below and see Learn for updates) are scheduled in the syllabus and in Learn for discussion in class. **IMPORTANT:** students are **expected to have read all assigned texts and screened all videorecordings carefully PRIOR to each lecture** (as indicated) and are expected to view all posted recorded lectures and to take notes, as necessary. Required readings will be posted ahead of time on Learn, except for a required novel (see essay), which students will obtain on their own. Assigned documentary videos are invaluable as background information to facilitate contextualization of readings. Students should view the recorded lectures with reflections, reactions to/questions about the readings. Should any questions remain, it is the students' responsibility to contact the Instructor for further discussion.

Correspondence: Students are expected to utilize email appropriately. This implies that appropriate language should be used at all times. Students are also expected to stay abreast of communication about the course through LEARN. Slides, links, announcements, recommended readings, etc. will be posted to the course page on LEARN and therefore students are expected to login **on a regular basis**.

PARTICIPATION ON THE DISCUSSION BOARD

Active participation in weekly discussions based on readings, videorecordings, and lectures constitutes an integral part of the course. All discussions will take place on the weekly threads. The mark will be based on the quality of the weekly contributions and the level of engagement in discussions (a mark rubric will be released). Reflection, questions, and comments are not only encouraged but expected of all students. Discussion posts will be posted on Sunday nights and begin at the end of Week 2 (May 23). Test weeks, the essay week, the two presentation weeks, and the week of Canada Day **will not feature a discussion question**.

ESSAY

The essay is meant to be an opportunity for students to reflect on class lectures/readings by providing opinions, reactions, thoughts, ideas, and questions related to issues discussed in class (or stemming from issues related to such ideas) and further researched by students. Important information about the University of Waterloo Writing Centre will be posted on Announcements (Learn) and it is advisable to use all the help available on campus to work on improving your writing. This course is meant to strengthen the student's overall writing skills.

Essay format: An outline of the structure that essays should take as well as a detailed rubric will be posted on Learn a few weeks into the course. The essay must be typed & **double spaced** and should be 1500-2000 words, which is typically a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 pages long, works cited page **not** included. **The term paper is due July 8.**

Grading will be based on the following criteria:

- Evidence of critical thinking
- Logical organization of thoughts into a unified whole (avoid writing a "list paper")
- Clarity of ideas
- Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary
- Evidence of further (meaningful) research carried out by the student (no Wikipedia/Encyclopaedia Britannica, etc. general knowledge sources)
- Form: adherence to MLA style guide

MIDTERM TEST

The midterm test is scheduled for **July 17**. Students have **6 hours** to complete and upload the test to the Dropbox in Learn, unless permission has been requested well in advance, and has been granted. FYI: this is a 1.5 hour test with 4.5 extra hours, granted to account for time zone differences and for any technical difficulties, so that no one is at a disadvantage. The test will cover a number of topics and consist of a series of short answer questions, paragraph questions, and an essay question. Instructions and format details will be announced in due course. **Start time: 9 am EST (local time)**

FINAL TEST

The final test is scheduled for the last day of classes for this course, which falls on **August 4**. Students have **6 hours** to complete the test and upload it to the Dropbox in Learn, unless permission has been requested well in advance, and has been granted. FYI: the final test is also a 1.5 hour test, with 4.5 extra hours, once again, granted to account for any technical difficulties, so that no one is left at a disadvantage. The final test will only assess the student's knowledge of the material covered after the midterm test and will consist of sections for short answer, paragraph questions, and an essay question. Instructions and format details will be announced in due course. **Start time: 9 am EST (local time)**

IN-CLASS PRESENTATION

Groups of 2-3 students will prepare a 10-15 minute analytical and critical presentation (5 minutes each student) + up to 2-3 minutes for Q&A on any cinematic/ stylistic or thematic aspect of one of the films discussed in class. The group should aim to present aspects of the chosen film that were not already discussed during the recorded lectures. Every member in the group should spend equal time addressing the audience. A presentation marking scheme and presentation guidelines will be uploaded to Learn. The chosen topic should be communicated to the instructor **by the 1st of July**.

LATE WORK POLICY

All course work is expected to be handed in on its due date. Penalty for late essay submission: 10% first day, 5% per day thereafter.

Students must be ready at their computer ten minutes before scheduled evaluations having previously tested any necessary software and their internet connection. Problems must be reported immediately. If an alternative assessment cannot be scheduled in a timely fashion, the weight of a missed test may be transferred to a past or to an upcoming assignment **to be decided** by the instructor, as needed. Students absent on the day of a test **will not** be given an opportunity to re-write, and will receive a grade of 0 (**zero**) on that assignment, unless they present their instructor with a completed University of Waterloo Verification of Illness form/Self reporting form through Quest, and their justification has been deemed acceptable. Even so, communicating with your Professor as soon as possible is still expected and required on a same-day basis. Failure to comply with this request will result in a grade of zero on any assignment affected. Serious extenuating circumstances may be given special consideration following appropriate and timely communication with your instructor.

COURSE SCHEDULE - What to expect and what is expected each week:

Each week of the course features the following:

- Assigned readings and (some weeks) videorecordings, posted in Learn. An asterisk marks the dates in which a required videorecording has been assigned (both in this syllabus and in Learn)
- Recorded lectures for the week, posted in Learn
- Topic charts, instructor notes, and presentation materials (power point and other documents), posted in Learn
- Some lectures and ppt presentations will include links to additional required clips/full videos

What is expected each week:

It is strongly recommended that you follow the course schedule provided below for test dates, and assignment due dates, and check the Learn weekly folders for additional assigned materials, recorded lectures, slides, and notes.

The schedule outlines what you should be working on each week of the course and lists the important due dates for the assessments. By following the schedule, you will be better prepared to complete the assessments in a timely manner and succeed in this course.

Please note that it is your responsibility to regularly consult the course schedule, your email, course Content, Announcements, Discussions (under Connect), and all relevant folders in the Learn website, and to annotate important dates in your planner.

COURSE OUTLINE / CLASS SCHEDULE - All readings/links to videorecordings posted in Learn

Week	Date	Lecture topic(s)	Readings/videorecordings due*
1	May 11	Introduction Analyzing film Narrative Form (part I)	Pramaggiore & Wallis, <i>Narrative Form</i>
	May 13	Narrative Form (part II) Film Style: An Introduction	Pramaggiore & Wallis, <i>Mise en Scène</i> ; Pramaggiore, <i>Cinematography</i>
2	May 18	Italian Culture: Literature and Cinema. How are films different from novels? How is analyzing film different from novel analysis?	Rolando Caputo, <i>Literary Cineastes: the Italian Novel and the Cinema</i>
	May 20	Adapting the Novel to the Big Screen	Linda Hutcheon, <i>A Theory of Adaptation</i> . Excerpts.
3	May 25	The Beginnings of Italian cinema The Silent Era Fascism and Italian Cinema	*Documentary: <i>The 'Golden Age' of Italian Silent Cinema</i> *Documentary: History's verdict: Benito Mussolini and Italian Fascism Peter Bondanella, <i>The Coming of Sound and the Fascist Era</i>
	May 27	Neorealism: An Introduction	*Film: <i>Rome Open City (Roma città aperta)</i> , Roberto Rossellini, 1945 Peter Bondanella, <i>'Roma città aperta' and the Birth of Neorealism</i>
4	June 1	The realist novel in Italy: Cinematic Influences Giuseppe Verga, Verism, Luchino Visconti's <i>La terra trema (The Earth Trembles, 1948)</i>	Lucia Re, <i>Neorealist Narrative: Experience and Experiment</i>
	June 3	Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's <i>The Leopard (Il Gattopardo, 1958)</i> and the Risorgimento	*Documentary: <i>From Restoration to Risorgimento: The Italian 19th Century</i>

Week	Date	Lecture topic(s)	Readings/videorecordings due*
5	June 8	Luchino Visconti's <i>The Leopard</i> , 1963	* Film: <i>The Leopard</i> , 1963 Mark Nicholls, <i>Visconti's 'Il Gattopardo': Melancholia and the Radical Sensibility</i>
	June 10	Leonardo Sciascia's <i>The Day of the Owl (Il giorno della civetta</i> , 1960) and the Mafia and 'malavita' in Italian Literature and Cinema	John Dickie, <i>Cosa Nostra: A History of the Sicilian Mafia</i> . Excerpts.
6	June 15	Damiano Damiani's <i>The Day of the Owl</i> (1968)	* Film: <i>The Day of the Owl</i> , 1968 John Dickie, <i>Cosa Nostra: A History of the Sicilian Mafia</i> . Excerpts.
	June 17	MIDTERM TEST	No readings
7	June 22	Alberto Moravia's <i>The Conformist (Il conformista</i> , 1951): Fascism and the Fascination with 'Normality'	Stijn De Cauwer, <i>From Normality to Normativity: Alberto Moravia and Robert Musil on the Pathology of Normality</i>
	June 24	Bernardo Bertolucci's <i>Il conformista</i> (1970)	* Film: <i>Il conformista</i> , 1970
8	June 29	Bernardo Bertolucci's <i>Il conformista</i> (1970)	Robert Philip Kolker, <i>Bernardo Bertolucci</i> (Excerpt)
	July 1	CANADA DAY	No readings Group Presentation topic due
9	July 6	Niccolò Ammaniti's <i>I'm Not Scared (Io non ho paura</i> , 2001), and the Southern Question	Gabriella Gribaudi <i>Images of the South</i>
	July 8	Gabriele Salvatores' <i>I'm Not Scared</i> (2003) ESSAY DUE	* Film: <i>I'm Not Scared</i> (2003)
10	July 13	Gabriele Salvatores' <i>I'm Not Scared</i> (2003)	Wendell Ricketts, <i>I'm Not Scared: The Film - A Stunning Interpretation of the Book by the Same Name</i>
	July 15	LIVE ZOOM GROUP PRESENTATIONS I	No readings
11	July 20	LIVE ZOOM GROUP PRESENTATIONS II	No readings
	July 22	Roberto Saviano's <i>Gomorra (Gomorra</i> , 2006): A Journalistic or Literary Sensation?	Luca Poggi, "Io so": A Reading of Roberto Saviano's 'Gomorra'
12	July 27	Matteo Garrone's <i>Gomorra</i> (2008)	* Film: <i>Gomorra</i> (2008)
	July 29	Matteo Garrone's <i>Gomorra</i> (2008)	Dana Renga, <i>Mourning Disavowed: Matteo Garrone's 'Gomorra'</i>
Make up day	Aug 4 (Wed.)	FINAL TEST	No readings

Student Conduct:

- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days
- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided below
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) **are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared**
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed
- Students may be asked to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments

Please be aware that St. Jerome's University has specific regulations in place concerning appropriate behaviour, both academic and otherwise. You are expected to be familiar with these regulations and to abide by them at all times (for policies, go to <http://secretariat.uwaterloo.ca/Policies>). Please read Section 33, concerning ethical behaviour.

Email policy:

Students are expected to utilize email appropriately. This implies that appropriate language should be used at all times. Students are also expected to stay abreast of communication about the course through lectures, ppts, links, and announcements posted in Learn, and are therefore expected to login to Learn on a regular basis.

Emails from students are most welcome, however please make sure that the answer to your questions is NOT already included in the syllabus or course outline or in Learn, before emailing your instructor. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the information in your course schedule and with the use of the online websites throughout the course.

For all other questions, I will do my best to reply as promptly as I can, however, please keep in mind that I may not always find sufficient time to give your email a same day reply, especially later in the day, or on weekends. Emails will be monitored regularly; students will receive a response within up to 48 hours. Should a reply to a question require a meeting on Zoom, or the setting up of a phone appointment, students will be notified.

Important note on PLAGIARISM:

According to the University's Policy 71 (Student Discipline), plagiarism is defined as "...the act of presenting the ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one's own. The use of other people's work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material... Use of [source material] without complete and unambiguous acknowledgement...is an offence under this policy."

Important Information

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/upload_file/PLCY_AOM_Student-Petitions-and-Grievances_20151211-SJUSCAapproved.pdf. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Discipline_20131122-SJUSCAapproved.pdf. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties, check the Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Appeals, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Appeals_20131122-SJUSCAapproved.pdf.

Note for students with disabilities: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term, www.uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.

Mental Health Services:

On Campus

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 x32655
- **MATES:** one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and

Counselling Services

- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from the Student Life Centre
- At SJU, Lindsay Thompson, Wellness Coordinator, is our student wellness resource and is available by email (lindsay.thompson@uwaterloo.ca). Note: Due to COVID-19 and campus closures, UWaterloo in-person counselling services are extremely limited, and most support will be provided online or by phone. Students are advised to contact Counselling Services by phone or email.

Off campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Extended Assessment Unit Phone: 519-749-4300 x6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): Support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 x222

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#). Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#). Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

Intellectual Property: Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or St. Jerome's University. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA, and/or St. Jerome's University for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository). Permission from an instructor, TA, or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights. Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Territorial Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. St. Jerome's University is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.