UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURG, ROME PROGRAM
ITAL 1089: ITALY TODAY
Modern Italian History and Society through Cinema and Literature

Instructors:
Paolo Bultrini – p.bultrini@italiaidfea.com     Filippo Graziani – graziani@italiaidea.com

Course goals and description
The aim of this series of meetings is to provide students with the means to better understand Italian history and culture in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and at the same time to offer a critical consideration of the country. The course is divided into four main sections. The first two sections will be taught by Prof. Paolo Bultrini and the second two by Prof. Filippo Graziani.

1. Rome in literature
This section is intended to stimulate a vision of the city of Rome as a place not just for art and tourism, but also as a personal and emotional space. Through the images and words of great Italian artists and writers, students will be encouraged to develop a creative and intimate relationship with the city. This section includes reading of literary texts from P. P. Pasolini, F. Fellini and M. Lodoli. Students will also watch scenes from films set in Rome. Also included is a writing laboratory in a Roman neighborhood where students will explore the city trying to put in action the visual and literary inputs provided in the first lessons.

2. Italian emigration and immigration.
In this section of the course, students will learn about the history of Italian emigration and the relatively new phenomenon of immigration in Italy. In class we will discuss literary texts such as movies from director E. Crialese, on this topic. There will be a focus on the Italian legislation on refugees that includes also a visit to the Centro Astalli dedicated to the rights of refugees.

3. Italy from Fascism to the present day
Through written texts, the viewing of some historical documentaries and a visit to the Historical Museum of the Liberation (the headquarters of Nazi SS during World War II), students will be given a grounding in modern and contemporary Italian History.

The postwar period with the reconstruction and the economic boom of the 60s, political terrorism and the 1980s are essential in order to understand the cultural changes taking place in modern Italy. These changes include separatist tensions, the fight against corruption, the gradual conquest of new civil liberties and growing environmental awareness.

4. Mafia
At the end of this round of lessons students will have an understanding of past and present mafia organizations in Italy, beyond the stereotypes and fictional representations in films and TV series. The lessons will use written texts and films such as “I cento passi” by Marco Tullio Giordana, and there will be a visit to Libera association, the voluntary organization dedicated to working with the assets seized from the mafia.

Each section of the course will include:
• Screenings of films, or film clips, and of historical documentaries
• Readings from literary texts
• Reading of articles from Italian magazines and newspapers
• Field research
• Site visits to relevant places
The lessons will be based on selections from the following texts:
- Italo Calvino, *Difficult Loves*, Martin Secker & Warburg Ltd, 1984
- Pier Paolo Pasolini, *Roman Poems*, City Lights 2001
- Roberto Saviano, *Gomorrah: Italy's other Mafia*, Paperback 2011

Films that will be screened during the course:
- *Open City* (*Roma città aperta*, 1945) by R. Rossellini
- *Paisan* (*Paisà*, 1946) by R. Rossellini
- *Bicycle Thieves* (*Ladri di biciclette*, 1948) by V. De Sica
- *La Dolce Vita* (1960) by Federico Fellini
- *Accattone* (1960) by Pier Paolo Pasolini
- *A Difficult Life* (*Una vita difficile*, 1961) by Dino Risi
- *Love Meetings* (1964) by Pier Paolo Pasolini.
- *A Special Day* (*Una giornata particolare*, 1977) by Ettore Scola
- *Great Beauty* (2013) by Paolo Sorrentino
- *One Hundred Steps* (*I cento passi*, 2000) by Marco Tullio Giordana
- *Golden Door* (*Nuovo mondo*, 2006) by Emanuele Crialese
- *Gomorrah* (2008) by Matteo Garrone
- *Terraferma* (2011) by Emanuele Crialese
- *My Way: The Rise and Fall of Silvio Berlusconi* (2016) by Antongiulio Panizzi

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Course methodology and classroom procedures
Students are expected to complete the reading assignments before each class, in preparation for in-class activities and discussions. The instructor will introduce students to the various periods/subjects which the course is intended to encompass. In order to encourage and facilitate everyone's participation, students will often be asked to break up in smaller groups of 5 or 6, and work together. Students are required to participate actively in the development of the academic program through personal research, debates and field investigations.
**Grading**

Students will be asked to complete weekly reading assignments, participate in classroom discussions and engage in 2 oral presentations on a given topic. In addition, students will have to write a personal reflective paper and take a written test dealing with the material covered in the modules.

Final grades will be determined on the basis of the students' performance in the written test and paper, on the oral presentations, as well as on the level and quality of their participation. Absences for which no documentation of a health or family-related emergency is produced, nor any (reasonable) explanation is offered, are considered unexcused.

**Grading scale**
- A+ 98%
- A 93%
- A- 90%
- B+ 88%
- B 83%
- B- 80%
- C+ 78%
- C 73%
- C- 70%
- D+ 68%
- D 63%
- D- 60%

**Assessment and grading**
- Attendance, participation 20%
- Paper (2) 40%
- Oral Presentation (2) 40%

**Exams dates:**
- Oral Presentation 1: Thursday May the 31st
- Paper 1: due for Wednesday June the 6th
- Paper 2: due for Wednesday June the 13th
- Oral Presentation 2: Thursday June 21st

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious ethical matter and an infraction of University Policy. Students should familiarize themselves with both the University Policy on Academic Integrity (available at [http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity](http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity)) and the Department of French and Italian Plagiarism Policy ([http://www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu/undergraduate/plagiarism.php](http://www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu/undergraduate/plagiarism.php)). Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
1. Use of human or online translators (i.e. Google Translate)
2. Unauthorized editorial help (asking a friend in an upper level course for help)
3. Unattributed use of an author's ideas (theft of intellectual property)
4. Unattributed use of an author's words (lack of proper citation)

Any student who plagiarizes will be immediately reported to the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies and charged with matters of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for first-time violations typically result in a '0' or an 'F' for the assignment. Second violations may result in an 'F' for the course and expulsion from the University.

**Attendance**

Unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade for class attendance/participation and for homework. Late homework is not acceptable except in case of excused absence. An excused absence is an absence due to documented medical problems or family or personal emergencies; you must contact or see your instructor as quickly as possible in these cases, or have someone contact the department on your behalf.

**Cell phone and laptop policy**

All cell phones and other electronic communication devices are to be turned to the off setting during class. Laptops are to be used for note taking only.

**Class schedule**

Classes run from 14:15 to 16:45 p.m.
### 1. Rome in literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>In Class</th>
<th>Assignments for the next class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tue May 15th</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introduction to the course section</strong></td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The city as a character</strong></td>
<td>- <em>Stupendous miserable city. Pasolini’s Rome</em> by J. D. Rhodes (chapter 4, pp. 75-86), Minneapolis, The university of Minnesota, 2007</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Innocents</strong> (excerpts) by Marco Lodoli, London, Quartet Books Limited, 1994</td>
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<td><strong>Fellini’s Rome</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Film screening and discussion</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Accattone</strong> by P.P. Pasolini and <strong>La Dolce Vita</strong> by F. Fellini (excerpts)</td>
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<td><strong>Wed May 16th</strong></td>
<td><strong>Analysis and discussion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The lament of the Excavator.</strong></td>
<td>- <em>Guy Debord and psychogeography</em></td>
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<td><strong>The city as a mosaic</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Film screening and discussion</strong></td>
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<td><strong>La grande Bellezza</strong> by P. Sorrentino (excerpts)</td>
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<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Innocents</strong> (excerpts) by Marco Lodoli, London, Quartet Books Limited, 1994</td>
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<td><strong>Thu May 17th</strong></td>
<td><strong>The Art of getting lost:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Written assignment:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Introduction to Psychogeography</strong></td>
<td>- <em>Diary of Rome</em></td>
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<td><strong>Laboratory (outdoor)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Experiencing Rome.</strong></td>
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### 2. Italian emigration and immigration.

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<th>Day</th>
<th>In Class</th>
<th>Assignments for next class</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tue May 22nd</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introduction to Italian emigration</strong></td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Film screening and discussion</strong></td>
<td>- <em>An Introduction to Clash of Civilizations over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio</em> by M. Newton, wordswithoutborders.org</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Nuovo Mondo</strong> by E. Crialese (excerpts)</td>
<td>- <em>Clash of Civilizations over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio</em>, by A. Lakhous (excerpts), New York, Europa Editions, 2008</td>
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<td><strong>Reading and discussion</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Wed May 23rd</strong></td>
<td><strong>Immigration in Italy today. Italian laws on immigration</strong></td>
<td><strong>Written assignment:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reading and discussion</strong></td>
<td>- <em>Vita: pages of a diary.</em></td>
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<td><strong>Clash of Civilizations over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio</strong>, by A. Lakhous (excerpts), New York, Europa Editions, 2008</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<td>- <em>The Centro Astalli</em> (handouts)</td>
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### Thu May 24th
- **Film screening and discussion**
  Terraferma by E.Crialese (excerpts)
- **Italian legislation on refugees**
- **The Jesuit Refugee Service/Italia**
  Presentation of The Centro Astalli
  Guest Enrico Casacchia

### Wed May 30th
- **Site visit at The Centro Astalli – Presentation of the Center and meeting with a refugee hosted in the Centro.**

### Thu May 31st
- **Oral Presentation**
  *Discovering the city: A Roman neighborhood*

### 3. Italy from Fascism to present day

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<th>Day</th>
<th>In class</th>
<th>Assignments for next class:</th>
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| Mon June 4th | **Fascism, postwar and reconstruction.**
  Film screening and discussion
  Excerpts from the following films:
  - *A Special Day* (1978) by E. Scola
  - *Open City* (1945) by R. Rossellini
  - *Bicycle Thieves* (1948) by V. De Sica
  - *A Difficult Life* (1961) by D. Risi
  Reading and discussion:
    Excerpts from Italo Calvino, *Difficult Loves*, Martin Secker & Warburg Ltd, 1984 |
  **Readings for Thursday June the 7th:**
  - The "Economic Miracle", pp. 212-216;
  - Changes in Class Structure, pp.235-247 |
| Wed June 6th | **Site visit to the Historical Museum of the Liberation or to The Mausoleum of the Ardeatine Caves The years of the great change** | **Readings:**
  - The "Economic Miracle", pp. 212-216;
  - Changes in Class Structure, pp.235-247
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Paper 2 due for Wednesday June 13th |

Paper 2 due. |

4. Mafia

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Analysis and discussion of Sicilian society and of the historical origins of the mafia Film Screening and discussion Excerpts from the film I cento Passi (2000) by Marco Tullio Giordana</th>
<th>Assignments for next class:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed June 13th</td>
<td>Reading and discussion Excerpts from Leonardo Sciascia, The Day of the Owl, Granta Books, 2014</td>
<td>Readings:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- R. Saviano, Boom times for organized crime, International Herald Tribune, August 28, 2012  
- Libera Pamphlet  
Excerpt from Roberto Saviano, Gomorrah: Italy's other Mafia, Paperback, 2011 | |
| Thu June 14th | The modern mafia and other mafias Film Screening and discussion Excerpts from the film Gomorrah (2008) by M. Gomorra and the first episode of the TV series Gomorrah (2014) by S. Sollima | |
|           | Reading and discussion Excerpt from Roberto Saviano, Gomorrah: Italy's other Mafia, Paperback, 2011  
Group preparation of questions for the meeting with the LIBERA association. | |
| Mon June 18th | Site visit to Associazione Libera, interviews with volunteers. | |
| Thu June 21st | Discussion on the visit to Associazione Libera Oral presentation | |