



# ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

**St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo  
Department of Italian and French Studies**

ITALST 391

Italian Novel and Cinema

**Winter 2020**

**Mondays, Wednesdays, 1- 2 20 pm Classroom SJ2 2003**

## **Instructor**

Instructor: Dr. Roberta Cauchi-Santoro

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2 30- 3 30pm

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## **Course Description**

This course explores Italian novel and cinema. Following an introduction to cinematography, we shall discuss the beginnings of Italian cinema and the development of important Italian cinematic movements like neorealism. We shall then examine the adaptation on the big screen of various Italian novels.

## **Course Goals and Learning Outcomes**

Upon 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 movements (eg. Neorealism)
- C. Discuss end-of- twentieth century cross-breeding 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.

## Required Texts

- Weekly readings are available on LEARN. A handful of additional “suggested readings” will be posted on LEARN from time to time. These readings are not obligatory.
- Film: “The Conformist” [Il conformista] (1970) directed by Bernardo Bertolucci (available on kanopy and/or vimeo)  
 Film: “The Day of the Owl” [Il giorno della civetta] (1968) directed by Damiano Damiani (available on kanopy and/or vimeo)  
 Film: “The Leopard” [Il gattopardo] directed by Luchino Visconti (shown by Cineclub italiano @SJU W 2020 on January 27th. Follow our facebook page ‘ClubitalianoSJU’)  
 Film: “Gomorra” directed by Matteo Garrone (shown by Cineclub italiano @SJU W 2020 on February 24th).  
 Film: “L’amore molesto” directed by Mario Martone (available on amazon)  
 “L’amica geniale” directed by Saverio Costanzo (available on HBO)

(This course will refer to the novels that inspire the films. The emphasis, however, is going to be on the films. You are encouraged to read as many of the novels mentioned as possible **but you are not expected to do so for the purpose of this course. 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	February 12th	25%
Essay	March 11th	30%
In-class presentation	March 25th	10%
Final Test	April 1st	25%
Attendance, Participation and Progress	Throughout the course	10%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

Each week, specific readings (consult course outline below) are scheduled in the syllabus for discussion in class. Students are expected to have read the texts carefully PRIOR to class and to come prepared with reflections, reactions to/questions about the readings. Most readings are available on LEARN.

**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. I will post slides (oftentimes both prior and subsequent to lessons), links, announcements, recommended readings etc. to the course page on LEARN and therefore students are expected to login on a regular basis. If you have urgent questions concerning the course, please email me at rcauchis@uwaterloo.ca.

**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 acknowledged and referenced in all written material. Use of [source material] without complete and unambiguous acknowledgement...is an offence under this policy."

**Midterm Test (25%)** The midterm test is scheduled for Feb 12th. The test lasts one hour and 20 minutes and consists of a series of short answer questions and an essay. All topics/themes covered until the last lecture before the midterm test will be examined.

**Essay (30%)** 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 has been 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 students' overall writing skills.

**Format:** **A rubric and an outline of the structure that the essay should take will be posted on LEARN at the beginning of the course.** The essay has been clearly scheduled in the course syllabus (March 11<sup>th</sup>). It must be typed & **DOUBLE SPACED** using Times New Roman (12pt.) font. The essay should be a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 8 pages long (excluding works cited page). Students should submit a hard copy of their work on the due date. Grading will be based on the following criteria. A rubric that details the grading scheme will be made available in the first few weeks of the course:

- **Evidence of critical thinking,**
- **Logical organization of thoughts**
- **Form: adherence to MLA style guide**
- **Grammar, spelling and vocabulary**
- **Evidence of further research carried out by the student.**

**In-Class presentation (10%)** Groups of 2-3 students will prepare a 10-12 minute presentation 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 in class. Every member in the group should spend equal time addressing the audience. The chosen topic should be communicated to the instructor by March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The presentations will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup>. A presentation marking scheme and presentation guidelines will be uploaded to Learn.

**Final Test (25%)** The final in-class test is scheduled for the last day of classes for this course, which falls on April 1st. The test lasts one hour and twenty minutes. The final test will consist of a series of short and long answer questions and a synoptic essay. This exam will only test the student's knowledge of the material covered after the midterm test.

**Active participation in class constitutes an integral part of the course (10%).**

Engagement with the material in the form of reflection, questions and comments is not only encouraged but is expected of all students. In-class group work will be an integral part of lessons and group class work/ pair work will also be graded.

**Course Outline / Class Schedule**

Readings with an L next to them are available on LEARN

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	January 6th	Introduction Analyzing film: How is film different from the novel? Narrative Form (part I)	Pramaggiore & Wallis Narrative Form (L) (this readings can be done <b>AFTER</b> the first lesson)
	January 8th	Narrative Form (part II) Cinematography: An Introduction  How is analyzing film different from novel analysis?	Pramaggiore & Wallis <i>Mise en scène</i> . Cinematography (L)
2	January 13th	Adapting the novel to the big screen Adaptation Theory: What is its relevance to Italian cinema?	"Literary cineastes: the Italian novel and the cinema" by Rolando Caputo (L)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
	January 15th	The beginnings of Italian cinema: Fascism and Italian Cinema	Linda Hutcheon "Adaptation Theory" (L)  "The coming of sound and the fascist era" by Peter Bondanella (L)
3	January 20th  January 22nd	Neorealism: the cinematic movement <b>(Watch <i>Roma città aperta</i> directed by Roberto Rossellini)</b> (link will be made available)  The realist novel in Italy: cinematic influences	"'Roma città aperta' and the birth of neorealism" Peter Bondanella (L)  "Neorealist narrative: experience and experiment" by Lucia Re (L)
4	January 27th  January 29th	Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa <i>The Leopard</i>  Background to Visconti's <i>Gattopardo</i>	On January 27 <sup>th</sup> at 5 30 pm Cineclub italiano@SJU will be showing Visconti's <i>Il Gattopardo</i> (please come and watch the film)
5	February 3rd  February 5th	Luchino Visconti <i>The Leopard</i> (guest lecturer: Prof. Yuri Sangalli,)  The mafia and "malavita" in Italian literature and cinema Leonardo Sciascia's <i>The Day of the Owl</i>	Excerpts from "Cosa Nostra: A History of the Sicilian Mafia" by John Dickie (L)
6	February 10th	"The day of the owl" (film) based on Leonardo Sciascia's novel.	Watch film "The day of the owl" directed by Damiano Damiani

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
	February 12th	<b>MIDTERM TEST</b>	(1968) <b>FEB 12th:Midterm test (sample midterm will be uploaded two weeks prior to test)</b>
8	February 24th  February 26th	Bernardo Bertolucci's cinema <i>Alberto Moravia's Il conformista</i>  "Il conformista" (film) directed by Bernardo Bertolucci	Watch Bertolucci's (film)"Il conformista" (1970)  Read Kolker's article (L)
9	March 2nd  <b>Communicate topic of Group Presentation</b>  March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Ferrante Fever: Elena Ferrante's novels turned into films  <i>L'amore molesto (Troubling Love)</i> How novel and film interact	Watch Mario Martone's <i>L'amore molesto</i> (1995)
10	March 9th  March 11th <b>TERM PAPER DUE</b>	<i>L'amore molesto (Troubling Love)</i> Martone-Ferrante collaboration Naples-as-Background in both film and novel  Ferrante's <i>L'amica geniale (My Brilliant Friend)</i> adapted to the film series directed by Saverio Costanzo.	
11	March 16th  March 18th	Gomorra by Roberto Saviano- the journalistic sensation  Gomorra (film) directed by Matteo Garrone	Watch film "Gomorra" directed by Matteo Garrone (2008) (Gomorra will be shown by Cineclub italiano@SJU on Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February at 5 30pm in SJ1 3016).

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
			"Dispatches from Hell: Matteo Garrone's <i>Gomorra</i> " by Pierpaolo Antonello (L)
12	March 23rd  <b>March 25th</b>	Quentin Tarantino's <i>Pulp Fiction</i> and the narrative of the "Young Cannibals"  <b>Presentations</b>	
13	March 30 <sup>th</sup>  April 1st	Guest Lecture Prof. Russ Kilbourne "Paolo Sorrentino: film and literature"  FINAL TEST	Become familiar with SAMPLE FINAL PAPER  <b>APRIL 1st (Final Test) (sample final test will be uploaded two weeks prior to test)</b>

### **Late Work**

Any work submitted past the due date requires documentation in order not to be subject to the late work policy (please inform about any work to be submitted late and provide documentation in a timely manner). Work submitted late will be penalized 2% per day up to 7 days after due date. After 7 days, no work will be accepted.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

Please note that the use of electronic devices should be exclusively for the enhancement of learning taking place during class. Any use of electronic devices that is unrelated to the lesson will negatively affect the student's participation mark.

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend lectures, to come prepared and to actively participate in class discussion and activities. 10% of the mark is allotted to attendance and participation.

### **Important Information**

**Academic Integrity:** To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo](#)

[Academic Integrity](#) webpage for more information.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. 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 professor, 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](#). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

**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](#).

**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](#).

**Note for Students with Disabilities:** The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), 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 the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.