

Italian

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	Italian Cinema
Code	ITU22082
Semester	2
ECTS credits	5
Pre-requisite	

Module Content

Italian cinema is one of the world's richest, most influential and fascinating. This module opens with the earliest short silent films, capturing the first coffee ever drunk on screen and a papal wave; we analyse too an extraordinary silent epic, which influenced cinema across the developed world. The next step is to understand fascism's hold over cinema (1922-1945).

We investigate how a dictatorship builds consensus through film, but also how, and why, it fails. Immediately after the war, Italian Neorealist cinema stands the camera in front of ordinary Italian lives and the ruins of Italy's devastated cities: what gritty realism means in these circumstances, and how it works, is discussed in lectures.

Next, the so-called Golden Age of Italian cinema (1960s) provides us with Italian cinema's biggest names (Fellini, Bertolucci, Pasolini, Antonioni): highly creative, unconventional and artistic auteurs, whose work had a huge global impact.

The final lectures are dedicated to contemporary cinema (2000-2018), including Italy's recent successes with television series like Sorrentino's *The Young Pope*.

Filmography: The films that we will look at in class may include: *Cabiria* (Giovanni Pastrone); *Roma città aperta/Rome Open City* (Roberto Rossellini), *Riso amaro/Bitter Rice* (Giuseppe De Santis); *8½* (Federico Fellini); *Il conformista/The Conformist* (Bernardo Bertolucci); *Blow Up* (Michelangelo Antonioni); *Divorzio all'italiana/Divorce Italian Style* (Pietro Germi); *Habemus Papam* (Nanni Moretti); *The Young Pope* (Paolo Sorrentino).

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will:

1) Have gained an understanding of the history of Italian film (key directors, movements, and changes in the industry)

2)Have developed a historical framework on which to build if they continue studying Italian film

3)Have developed basic skills in film analysis and be able to apply these skills to selected film clips

4)Have developed the ability to discuss, verbally and in writing, key aspects of Italian cinema.

5)Have improved presentation skills

Assessment

One 2,000 essay on an aspect of Italian cinema history (80% of module mark) plus one 800 word film scene analysis based on in-class presentations