

LIS 380- Italian Cultures and Films

Class time TBA

Location TBA



Contact information

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Office hours: TBA and by appointment



Course description

LIS 380 Italian Cultures and Films (3 credits)

Taught in English, this course offers interdisciplinary explorations of Italian cultures, history, society, and politics through a broad sample of texts and films from World War II to the present. While examining Italian cultures as reflections of past and current sociopolitical trends, students develop a sense of cinematic literacy that helps them to become active interpreters of cinematic and narrative texts and to become acquainted with the cultural and historical background that produced them. Readings are in English and films are in Italian with English subtitles. No knowledge of Italian is required for this course. Students of Italian who wish to obtain credit towards a LIS minor or major should co-enroll in ITAL 380L. This course may be repeated up to two times for credit under different topics. F, S, Su.



Student Learning Outcomes

By successfully completing this course students can expect to be able to:

- Discuss fundamental aspects of Italian history and cultures from 1861 to the contemporary time.
- Explain how cinema has evolved in Italy from the 1940s to the present day.
- Analyze and critically interpret narratives and cinematic texts through close reading strategies.

Course material

- High-Speed Internet Access
- Bondanella & Pecchioni: *A History of Italian Cinema*. Bloomsbury Edition, 2017.
- Films are available via Kimble Library streaming services at **no additional cost**.
- Other reading materials is posted on Moodle.

Grade breakdown

<input type="checkbox"/> 8 written responses on films	25%
<input type="checkbox"/> Preparation and active participation	20%
<input type="checkbox"/> Final essay	20%
<input type="checkbox"/> Midterm exam	15%
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentations	10%
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 film reviews	10%

Grading scale

All grades are posted on Moodle: it is the student's responsibility to monitor their grade and attendance.

Letter Grade	CCU Standard	Low %	High %
A	Excellent	90	100
B+	Very Good	85	89
B	Good	80	84
C+	Above Average	75	79
C	Average	70	74
D+	Below Average	65	69
D	Poor	60	64
F	Fail	00	59

Assignment's descriptions

8 Weekly written responses to film (400 words max) 25%

The purpose of weekly responses is to help students develop ideas or interpretations that can be further expand in the final essay. Written responses to films are well organized and very well focused responses to the film you watched. Guidelines and questions on how to engage on a "silent dialogue" with a film will be discussed and distributed in class at the beginning of the semester. They will be posted on Moodle.

Active Participation in class & forum 20%

1. **To do well** in class participation, students must show to be prepared, have completed the readings and viewings assigned **before class**, have critically engaged with the content during the class discussion. **To excel**, students must be able to establish solid and meaningful connections between texts and readings during the discussion.
2. **Forums** are part of participation grade. **To do well** students must answer all the questions posted by the professor within the due date. **To excel**, students must engage in meaningful discussions with their peers by commenting, answering, and questioning their peers' contributions. A participation rubric will be distributed and discuss during the first two weeks of class and posted on Moodle.

Presentation 15%

Focusing on one particular aspect of a film already watched and discussed in class, students will do a 10 or 12-minute presentation during class time discussing their own analysis of one particular aspect (visual, historical, cultural) or their own interpretation of a specific scene/sequence in relation with one secondary source. The secondary source must be an **academic article** selected through the library catalogue. The presenter is also in charge of running part of the class discussion. Guidelines will be provided and posted on Moodle

Midterm exam 15%

The midterm exam will assess students' understanding of the cultural and historical backgrounds of the film watched, film terminology, and texts discussed.

2 film reviews 10%

Students will write two film reviews (samples will be analyzed and discussed in class) and post them on the streaming service used to watch the film. Each review should be no more than 500 words. It will be submitted directly on the streaming service portal and shared with the professor with a screenshot sent by email. More specific guidelines will be posted on Moodle.

Final essay 20%

The final essay can stem from a reflection paper, a presentation, or any previous work already submitted. The topic must be selected and approved by the professor. The final paper comprises the following submissions:

- Complete first draft by week 12 8%
- Presentation week 14 6%
- Final paper week 15 6%

Course Policies

Attendance

Students may miss 3 classes without it affecting their final grade. For any absences beyond these three, they will be excused only for documented cases listed in the current CCU Catalog. For each unexcused absence, students will lose 2 points of their final grade. If they miss more than 25% of all class meetings, they will automatically receive a failing grade. (Authorized by the Dean's Office, January 2011).

NOTA BENE: Attendance is the prerequisite for class participation. Students cannot participate if they are not present in class. Excused absences required official documentation, which must be submitted directly to the professor upon return to class (the first day student comes back to class). The professor is not required to accept any excuses after this date. **All excuses are subject to verification.** It is the student's responsibility to keep **track** of their unexcused absences and **to make up for all the missed assignments.**

Communication with your professor

Course announcements will be posted regularly via email from Moodle. **Students must check CCU email at least once a day.** Emails can be used to ask questions, schedule a meeting, or get extra help and support outside office hours. Students should expect a reply within 24 hours on weekdays and 48h on weekends. **NOTA BENE:** Students should respond **promptly** to individual emails sent by the professor.

Guidelines on assignments

Guidelines on assignments are distributed via Moodle email and links. Failing to follow **all** the directions required will result in an immediate reduction of the grade for the assignment of 10 points for each component that is not included or respected.

Late work.

No late work is accepted. If a student does not have the possibility to complete the assignments within the due date, due to some unforeseen circumstances, the student needs to reach out to the professor to discuss the possibility to make up the missed work.

In class technology.

No computer, no cellular phone, no tables are allowed during class time, unless the request is accompanied by proper documentation for student's accommodation or required by the professor for specific activities. The use of non-authorized devices during class time will result in 0 as participation grade for the day.

Student Accessibility and Disability Services

If you are in need of special accommodations, please contact Accessibility and Disability Services Office. Their website is accessible [here](#).

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

This university, and this course, are bound by federal law to protect the privacy of your information. More information may be found [here](#).

Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 makes it illegal to discriminate in educational settings based on age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sex, veteran's status, or pregnancy. All faculty of CCU are mandated Title IX reporters. If you believe you are the victim of sexual harassment or crimes anywhere on campus or off, you are welcome to come to me and I will help you get the aid you need. The university's Title IX Coordinator is Denise Perez. She is located in Kearns 104B. She can be reached at (843) 349-2382 (office), (843) 333-6229 (cell, anytime), titleix@coastal.edu or denise@coastal.edu. The Title IX office website is [here](#).

Plagiarism

Any instances of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Code of Student Conduct and may result in penalties up to and including failure of the course with a grade of "FX". [The Coastal Carolina University Code of Student Conduct](#), gives examples of plagiarism and cheating. Students must review this document to understand what constitutes academic misconduct.