



## Italian Cinema

### Aims

The module will give a historical, social, and artistic outline of Italian cinema, from the silent era to the 1970s. Its main aim is to help foreign students become familiar with Italian films and cinematic culture in a broader sense, providing them with a detailed knowledge of the most significant auteurs, trends, styles, genres, and technological developments, as well as with the basic tools for film analysis.

### Contents

This module will take into account several different aspects of Italian film history and cinematic culture, including: the position of cinema in the broader context of Italian culture and society; the relationship between film production and governmental policies; the history of cinematic institutions; the birth and the development of an Italian film industry; the relationship between film production and technological developments; different styles, “movements”, and trends; the roles involved in film production: producers, directors, actors, and film professionals more in general; the definition of an Italian stardom during the different stages of Italian film history; auteur cinema; genre cinema; popular cinema and its inter-textual relationships with other forms of popular culture; Italian audiences; issues related to gender and sexuality in film; basic notions of film language.

Main topics of the module will include:

- The origins of Italian cinema and the historical-mythological film;
- Italian Divas and male stars of the silent era;
- The 1920s and the crisis of Italian film industry;
- The 1930s and cinema during the fascist era;
- Neorealism and the war;
- The 1950s, neorealist heritage and the re-birth of popular genres;
- The 1960s and 70s, modern cinema and a generation of “auteurs”;
- Italian film genres of the 1960s and 1970s (peplum, spaghetti western, gothic horror, thriller, “poliziottesco”).

### Methodology

Each workshop will be divided in two parts. After an introductory lecture (historical and theoretical), a specific film will be viewed, analysed and commented.



## DIPARTIMENTO DI CIVILTÀ E FORME DEL SAPERE



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA

### **Texts**

The main reference textbook for this module is:

Carlo Celli and Marga Cottino-Jones, *A New Guide to Italian Cinema*, New York-Basingstoke: Palgrave (2007).

A selected bibliography on specific topics will be provided during the lectures.

The films listed below will be discussed during the module:

*Maciste* (Luigi Romano Borgnetto e Vincenzo Denizot, 1915)

*What Scoundrels Men Are!* (*Gli uomini, che mascalzoni...*, Mario Camerini, 1932)

*Rome, Open City* (*Roma città aperta*, Roberto Rossellini, 1945)

*Blow Up*, Michelangelo Antonioni, 1960)

*Il sorpasso* ([The Easy Life], Dino Risi, 1962)

*Suspiria* (Dario Argento, 1977)

Selected scenes from other films will be shown during the module.