



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



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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.