

FI212-15 Italian Cinema: the Rise and Fall of Neorealism

26/27

Department

SCAPVC – Film and Television Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Stephen Gundle

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

60% coursework, 40% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module will enable year two students to understand the development and decline of Italian Neorealism, a cinematic movement that broadly lasted from 1945 to 1952 (although its influence continued long afterwards) and which is renowned for its social content and stylistic innovations. A diverse group of films which have been considered precursors, prime examples and hybrids will be studied. They will be situated in the cultural, social and political context in which they were made and exhibited, namely Italy in the period between the decline of Mussolini's Fascist regime and the establishment of a democratic political system anchored to the West.

Module aims

- Introduce students to major directors, stars, landmark films and important aesthetic developments in Italian cinema between 1942 and 1952.
- Examine filmic representations of class and gender within the upheaval of war, foreign occupation and cultural crisis in this era.
- Familiarise students with the commercial and state structures of the Italian film industry in this period and enable them to gain a complex historical understanding of Italian cinema in

this decade of political transition.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week 1 Film: *Quattro passi tra le nuvole*/ Four Steps in the Clouds, dir.: Alessandro Blasetti (1942)
Lecture: Blasetti and the State Institutions of Cinema. Seminar

Week 2 Film: *I bambini ci guardano*/The Children are Watching Us, dir.: Vittorio De Sica (1943)
Lecture: De Sica as Actor and as Director. Seminar

Week 3 Film: *Ossessione* (Obsession), dir.: Luchino Visconti (1943)
Lecture: The Critique of Fascism. Seminar

Week 4 Film: *Roma città aperta*/Rome Open City, dir.: Roberto Rossellini (1945)
Lecture: The Birth of Neorealism and the Shadows of War and Dictatorship. Seminar

Week 5 Film: *Paisa*/Paisan, dir.: Roberto Rossellini (1946)
Lecture: The Discovery of Italy: Neorealism as Method. Seminar

Week 6: Reading and Viewing Week

Week 7 Film: *Sciuscià* (Shoeshine), dir.: Vittorio De Sica (1946)
Lecture: De Sica as Neorealist: Observation and Engagement. Seminar

Week 8 Film: *Bitter Rice*/Riso amaro, dir.: Giuseppe De Santis (1949)
Lecture: Neorealism and the Postwar Impact of Hollywood. Seminar

Week 9 Film: *Bellissima*, Dir.: Luchino Visconti (1951)
Lecture: Neorealism and the Critique of Cinema. Seminar

Week 10 Film: *Umberto D*, dir. Vittorio De Sica (1952)
Lecture: The End of Neorealism. Seminar

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- a broad understanding of the history and context of Italian neorealism
- a deep understanding of the issues around film content and style and of critical questions in the interpretation of neorealism.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

This module develops skills of audio-visual literacy, through close textual and/or contextual analysis in relation to the moving image and sound. It also develops understandings of historical, theoretical and conceptual frameworks relevant to screen arts and cultures.

Transferable skills

critical and analytical thinking in relation
independent research skills
team work
clarity and effectiveness of communication, oral and written
accurate, concise and persuasive writing
audio-visual literacy

Study

Study time

Type	Required	Optional
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)	
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)	
Tutorials	(0%)	1 session of 15 minutes
Other activity	18 hours (12%)	
Private study	114 hours (76%)	
Total	150 hours	

Private study description

reading of critical materials, wider viewing, preparation for and writing of research essay

Other activity description

One film screening per week (9 x 2 hours)

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Written Assignment	60%		Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Online Examination	40%	No
~Platforms - AEP		

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- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

In line with the department's usual practice, written feedback is given and optional tutorial sessions are offered.

[Past exam papers for FI212](#)

Availability

There is currently no information about the courses for which this module is core or optional.