Italian 422/Cinema Studies 422  
Special Topic: Italian Popular Genre Cinema: Peplum, Horror and Comedy Italian Style  
M 2:30 – 3:20 LIB 253  
W 2:30 – 5:30 LIB 253  

I week Jan. 13 Wed. Introduction to the course, what is genre cinema?  
Ulysses (Mario Camerini, 1954, 104’)

II week Jan. 18 Mon. HOLIDAY - Martin Luther King Day

Article on line #1 (Narrative as a formal system)  
Write main points of article on blackboard before class starts.

III week Jan. 25 Mon. Lecture on Italian cinema: gender and genre  
Write main points of article on blackboard.

27 Wed. Lecture on Samson and the seven miracles of the world  
(Riccardo Freda, 1960, 77’)  
Article #3 (Ancient Rome, cinema and history)  
Write main points of article on blackboard.

IV week Feb. 1 Mon. Lecture on Projecting ancient Rome  
Write main points of article on blackboard.

3 Wed. Lecture on Colossus of Rhodes (Sergio Leone, 1961, 128’)  
Article #5 (Heroic bodies), part 1: pp.97-115.  
Write main points of article on blackboard.

Article on line #6 (Hammer: the studio that horror built)  
Write main points of article on blackboard.

VI week Feb. 15 Mon. Lecture on A history of horrors  
The vampires (Riccardo Freda/Mario Bava, 1957, 81’)  
Write main points of article on blackboard.

17 Wed. Lecture on The mask of Satan (Mario Bava, 1960, 87’))  
Article on line #8 (Looking at Medusa), part 1: pp. 133-153.  
Write main points of article on blackboard.

VII week Feb. 22 Mon. Lecture on Article on line # 8, part 2: pp.153-173.
Write main points of article on blackboard.

Mario Bava: Maestro of the Macabre, doc., 60’, 2000
[View on your own Blood and black lace (Mario Bava, 1964, 90’)]

24 Wed. Lecture on h. The bird with the crystal plumage (Dario Argento, 1970, 96’)
[View on your own Baron Blood (Mario Bava, 1972, 98’)]

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VIII week  Mar. 1 Mon. Lecture on h. Article on line # 9 (Draculas, vampires, and other undead forms). Write main points of article on blackboard.

3 Wed. MIDTERM (in class)

IX week Mar. 8M – 10W Spring Break Holiday

X week 15 Mon. Lecture on Comedy Italian style: the birth of the comedy It. style. Article on line 10 (The forerunners)
17 Wed. Lecture on c. Bread, love and dreams (Luigi Comencini, 1953, 91’)

XI week Mar. 22 Mon. Lecture on c. Article on line # 11 (The age of Neorealismo rosa), part 1: pp. 19-31. Write main points of article on blackboard.


XII week Mar. 29 Mon. Lecture on c. Article on line # 12 (Commodifying passions), part 1: pp. 60-78. Write main points of article on blackboard.

31 Wed. Lecture on c. The great war (Mario Monicelli, 1959, 118’) Article on line 12, part 2: pp. 78-96. Write main points of article on blackboard.

XIII week Apr. 5 Mon. Lecture on c. Article on line # 13 (Italian comedies in the 1960s), part 1: pp. 49-66. Write main points of article on blackboard.

7 Wed. Lecture on c. Seduced and abandoned (Pietro Germi, 1964, 119’)

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XIV week Apr. 12 Mon. Lecture on c. Article on line # 13, part 2: pp. 66-82. Write main points of article on blackboard.

  14 Wed. Lecture on c. *The easy life* (Dino Risi, 1962, 106’)

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XV week Apr. 19 Mon. Lecture on c. Article on line # 14 (The protagonists of the new comedy style), part 1: pp. 83-108. Write main points of article on blackboard.


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XVI week Apr. 26 Mon. Lecture on c. Article on line #14, part 2: pp. 108-135. Write main points of article on blackboard.


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Final Week: MAY 4 Tues. to MAY 11 Tues.

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* Feel free to come to see me whenever you need help!

**Grade Distribution:**
The final grade will be calculated as follows:
Final paper......................... 40%
Attendance/Class discussion ........ 5%
Midterm.............................. 40%
Presentation........................ 15%

**Grade Scale:**
A  94-100  B-       79-82
A-  91-93   C+       75-78
B+  87-90   C        70-74
B  83-86   D        64-69

**Midterm**: will include essay questions on all the material covered in class (lectures, articles, films). Please note that attendance at the screening is *mandatory* -- all the films are available for extra-viewing in Hodges Library (Second floor) in order to give you the opportunity to review the films before your exams.

**Presentation**: A power point group presentation.

**Final**: 3 essay questions (AT LEAST 2 PAGES EACH, TYPED with bibliography) based on the analysis of the FILMS VIEWED IN CLASS, ON THE ARTICLES READ AND ON THE LECTURES GIVEN. (Be original !!! research the topic on your own, watch as many movies as possible).
Class discussion: discussion on the main points of the article read or of the film viewed. Teacher will provide a guideline for discussion. Take notes when you read an article (main points).

Attendance: to be active is essential in a class whose main object is critical discussion about cinema. Good class participation requires regular attendance and actual involvement in all class activities and assignments. You are allowed ONLY 3 absences in the semester.

Italian Majors and Minors: the students will be required to read SOME articles in Italian (on line) and watch some Italian movies with no English subtitles:

[CHOOSE A MOVIE FROM the comedy Italian style in Italian (Italian only section/ 9 films available), write a summary of the story, specifying characteristics of film, etc.]

Textbook: critical material on line.

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 865-974-6087 in Hoskins Library to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disability.

Articles on line:

Article 1 Narrative as a formal system (David Bordwell, Film Art)

Article 2 Introduction/Italian cinema: gender and genre (Maggie Günsberg)

Article 3 Ancient Rome, cinema and history (Maria Wyke, Projecting the past)

Article 4 Projecting ancient Rome (Maria Wyke, Projecting the past)

Article 5 Heroic bodies: the cult of masculinity in the Peplum (Maggie Günsberg, Italian cinema: gender and genre)

Article 6 Hammer: the studio that horror built (John McCarty, Hammer films)

Article 7 A history of horrors- The rise and fall of the House of Hammer (Denis Meikle)

Article 8 Looking at Medusa: investigating femininity in the Horror Film (Maggie Günsberg, Italian cinema)

Article 9 Draculas, vampires and other undead forms (ed. John Edgar Browning)

Article 10 The forerunners (Comedy Italian style, Rémi Fournier Lanzoni)
Article 11 The age of Neorealismo Rosa (Comedy It. Style, R. F. Lanzoni)

Article 12 Commodifying passions: gender and consumerism in Commedia all’italiana (Italian cinema, Maggie Günsberg)

Article 13 Italian comedy in the 1960s (Comedy It. Style, R. F. Lanzoni)

Article 14 The protagonists of the New Comedy Style (Comedy It. Style, R. F. Lanzoni)

Filmography

Italian Peplum

**Precursors:** (in library)
- Cabiria (Giovanni Pastrone, 1914, silent, Bartolomeo Pagano) PN1995.75.C32 English
- Maciste alpino (Luigi Maggi, 1916, silent, Bartolomeo Pagano) PN1997.M1875 Italian and English subtitles
- The last days of Pompei (a.k.a. Gli ultimi giorni di Pompei) (Carmine Gallone, 1926, silent) PN1995.9.F67 U485 English
- Fabiola (Alessandro Blasetti, 1948, Michele Morgan, Gino Cervi) PN1995.9.F67F32 English

**Pepla:**
- Sins of Rome (Riccardo Freda, 1952) Not available/NA
- Ulysses (Mario Camerini, 1954) English PN1997.U4
- Hercules Unchained (Pietro Francisci, 1958, Steve Reeves/Mister Universe) (a.k.a. Le fatiche di Ercole) NA
- Hercules and the Captive Women (a.k.a. Hercules Conquers Atlantis, Vittorio Cottafavi, 1961) NA
- Ercole al centro della terra (Mario Bava, 1961, Christopher Lee) NA
- Ercole sfida Sansone (Pietro Francisci, 1963) NA
- Ercole contro Moloch (Giorgio Ferroni, 1963, Gordon Scott, ex Tarzan) NA
- Ercole contro i figli del sole (Osvaldo Cipriani, 1964, Giuliano Gemma) NA
- Ercole contro i tiranni di Babilonia (Domenico Paolella, 1964) NA
- Ercole contro Roma (Piero Pierotti, 1964) NA
- Ercole l’invincibile (Al World, 1964) NA
- Ercole, Sansone, Maciste e Ursus gli invincibili (Giorgio Capitani, 1965) NA
- Maciste nella valle dei re (Carlo Campogalliani, 1960, Mark Forest) NA
18 sequels
Ursus (Carlo Campogalliani, 1961) NA
Ursus nella valle dei leoni (Carlo Campogalliani, 1962) NA
Ursus gladiatore ribelle (Domenico Paolella, 1962, Alan Steele)) NA
Samson and the seven miracles of the world (Riccardo Freda, 1960) English
PN1997.S168
Sansone (Gianfranco Parolini, 1961, Alan Steele) NA
Sansone contro i pirati (Amerigo Anton, 1963) NA

**Colossals-US productions:**
The Ten Commandments (Cecil B. De Mille, 1956, Charlton Heston) remake of silent film by same director/title of 1923 PN1997.T345
Ben-Hur (William Wyler, 1959, Charlton Heston) remake of a 1927 version by Fred Niblo PS3134.B452
The fall of the Roman empire (Anthony Mann, 1964, Sophia Loren, Alec Guinness, Christopher Plummer, Omar Sharif) PN1997.F293

**Horror:**

**Precursors**
Nosferatu a symphony of horror (Friedrich W. Murnau, 1922, silent, Germany) PN 1995.75.N67 English on disc one
Dracula (Tod Browning, 1931, US Universal Studios, Bela Lugosi) PN1997.D73

**Classic Horror:**
Brides of Dracula
Phantom of the opera
Paranoiac
The kiss of the vampire
Nightmare
Night creatures
The evil of Frankenstein

Dracula (John Badham, 1979, Frank Langella) PN1997.D736 2004
Bram Stoker’s Dracula (based on Bram Stoker’s novel, Dracula, 1897) (Francis Ford Coppola, 1992, with Gary Oldman) PN1997.D737 2005
Rosemary’s baby (Roman Polanski, 1968, Mia Farrow, John Cassavetes)
Italian horror:
Dario Argento: (English)

Comedy Italian Style:
(Will arrive)
Cops and robbers/ Guardie e ladri (Steno/Monicelli, 1951) English
Toto’ and the king of Rome/Toto’ e I re di Roma (Steno,Monicelli, 1952) English
Bread, love and dreams/Pane, amore e fantasia (Luigi Comencini, 1953,) English
The art of getting along/ L’arte di arrangiarsi (Luigi Zampa, 1954) English
Toto’ and Carolina/ Toto’ e Carolina (Mario Monicelli, 1955) English
Love and Larceny/Il mattatore (Dino Risi, 1959) English
A difficult life/ Una vita difficile (Dino Risi, 1961) English

ITALIAN only
Un giorno in pretura/ A day in court (Steno, 1953) PN 1995.9.F67.G556
Tutti a casa/ Everybody go home (Luigi Comencini, 1961, Sordi) PN1995.9.F67.T878

Subtitled in English:
Bread, love and dreams/Pane, amore e fantasia (Luigi Comencini, 1953, De Sica) PN1995.9.F67.P348
I soliti ignoti/Big Deal on Madonna Street (Mario Monicelli, 1958, Gassman/Toto’/Mastroianni) PN1995.9.C55.S58
La grande guerra/The great war (Mario Monicelli, 1959, Sordi/Gassman) PN1997.G682
The easy life/Il sorpasso (Dino Risi, 1962, Gassman) PN 1997.S646