This course will examine the most important literary and cinematic trends in pre- and post-war Italy. In the first part of the course we will watch Luce newsreel-documentaries filmed between 1920 and 1940, and we will read novels written during these twenty years. In the second part we will watch movies made from 1945 to the present that deal with the representation of Fascist Italy. We will compare and read these films in contraposition to the Luce material in order to acquire a more in-depth view of this historical period. Both in films and in novels we will analyze the shifting perspective that writers and directors had in their assessment of one of the most turbulent and tragic moments of Italian history. The objective of the course is to investigate the impact that Fascism, War and the Post-War Period had on literature and cinema in order to achieve a greater understanding of contemporary culture.

The course will meet twice a week: Monday for one hour (in HSS), and Wednesday for a three hour session (in Hodges-Audiovisual) to allow for film viewing and discussion. The class will be conducted in English. The course is designed for both non-majors and majors of Italian (Italian majors and minors will read the literary works in Italian). All the films are in Italian with English subtitles, and all the literary texts are available in translation. There are no prerequisites. Requirements will include one mid-term, one final, and one class presentation. For further information contact Flavia Brizio, Department of Romance Languages (tel. 974-2311). (Because the content of this course changes, students may take this course twice, for up to 6 credits.)

Fascism & Resistance in Italian Literature & Cinema
Week I

Jan 14
Introduction Fascism - “Rise and fall of a dictator: Mussolini” (doc., BBC, 105).

Week II

Jan 19
HOLIDAY - Martin Luther King Day

Jan 21
Jan 26
   Men discussion

Jan 28
   A special day (film Scola 1977, 105') discussion

Week IV
Feb 2
   Men discussion

Feb 4
   Christ stopped in Eboli (film Rosi 1978, 150') discussion

Week V
Feb 9
   Men discussion
   Feb 11 The garden of the Finzi-Contini (film De Sica 1970, 93) discussion

Week VI   Feb 16 Pereira Declares (book Tabucchi 1995) discussion
   Feb 20 Generale della Rovere (film Rossellini 1959, 129) discussion

Week VII   Feb 23 Pereira discussion
   Feb 25 Rome open city (film Rossellini 1945, 98) discussion

Week VIII March 2 Pereira discussion
   March 6 Era notte a Roma (film Rossellini 1960, 140) discussion

Week IX March 9 Pereira discussion
   March 11 Paisan (film Rossellini 1949, 81') discussion

Week X March 16 The Reawakening / The Truce (book Primo Levi) discussion
   March 18 Two women (film De Sica 1960, 110') discussion

Week XI March 23-25 Spring Break - HOLIDAY

Week XII March 30 The Truce discussion
   April 1 Night and fog (documentary A. Resnais, 1956, 32) The lost children of Berlin (documentary)

Week XIII April 6 MIDTERM
   April 8 Adam, One Afternoon and Other Stories (book Calvino 1949) discussion
   - Stalingrad (film J. Vilsmaier 1992, 138')
Week XIV  April 13  Adam discussion
  April 15  The 4 days of Naples (film Nanni Loy, 1962, 120')

Week XV  April 20  Adam discussion
  April 22  Le soldatesse (film Zurlini, 1966, 120)

Week XVI  April 27  Adam discussion
  April 29  Night of the shooting stars (film Taviani, 1982, 105)

WeekXVII  May 4  Take-home

FINAL WEEK  May 7-9 to 11-12  Final Week

Grade Distribution:
The final grade will be calculated as follows:
Midterm  30%
Take Home-Final  30%
Oral Report  30%
Attendance  10%

Grade Scale:
A 90-100  C+ 76-79
B+ 86-89  C 70-75
B 80-85 D 60-69

Exams: will include the material covered in class. Please note that Attendance at
the screening is mandatory -- all the films are available for extra-viewing at the
Audiovisual center in Hodges Library in order to give you the opportunity to review the
films before your class presentation or exams. Bibliography of critical material at
Reserve Desk in Hodges Library will be distributed separately.

Midterm and Take Home Final: will include questions on the material covered in
class.

Oral Presentation: students will choose a book or a film and they will base their
report on (at least) two critical articles. The oral report has to be presented to the class
but it also has to be written and handed in after the oral presentation: at least 4 pages
typed with a biblio of the critical material used.

Attendance: to be active is essential in a class whose main object is critical
discussion about literature and cinema. Good class participation requires regular
attendance and actual involvement in all class activities and assignments.

Purpose of course: In the course we will focus on the movies made from 1945 to
the present that deal with the representation of fascist Italy. We will compare and read
these films in contraposition to the novels in order to acquire a more in-depth view of this historical period. The objective of the course is to investigate the impact that Fascism, War and the Resistance had on literature and cinema in order to achieve a greater understanding of contemporary culture.


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