Italian 421/Cinema Studies 421

Special Topic: THE ROARING SIXTIEST: SPAGHETTI WESTERN, SANDAL EPICS AND POPULAR CULTURE.

M 2:30 – 3:20 HSS 56
W 2:30 – 5:30 LIB 252

Prof. Flavia Brizio-Skov
Office: 614 McClung Tower
or by appointment.*

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I week     Jan. 11 Wed.   Intro.: The western genre - *High Noon* (Fred Zinnemann, 1952, 84’)

II week    Jan. 16 Mon.  **HOLIDAY** - **Martin Luther King Day**
           18 Wed.  *Shane* (George Stevens, 1953, 118’)
            Article: “Woody Allen on *Shane*” (1)

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III week Jan. 23 Mon.  Article: “Politics, etc. and the Western,” pp. 5-16 (2)
           25 Wed.  *Rio Bravo* (Howard Hawks, 1959, 141’)

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IV week Jan. 30 Mon.  Article: “Politics…,” pp. 17-29
           Feb. 1 Wed.  *The magnificent seven* (John Sturges, 1960, 130’)

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V week Feb. 6 Mon.  Article: “Heroic bodies: the cult of masculinity in the peplum”(3)
            8 Wed.  *Hercules* (Pietro Francisci, 1957, 105’)
            Article: “An introduction to European Westerns” (4)

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VI week Feb. 13 Mon.  Article: “The man with no name: masculinity as style in the Spaghetti Western” (5) - *Once upon a time: Sergio Leone* (documentary, 2000, 58’) Hodges 252

            Wed.  *A fistful of dollars* (Sergio Leone, 1964, 100’)
            Article: “Life can be so precious” (6)

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VII week Feb. 20 Mon.  Article: “Were you ever young?” (7)
           22 Wed.  *For a few dollars more* (Sergio Leone, 1965, 130’)

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VIII week Feb. 27 Mon.  Article: “I was away, too far away” (8)
            Mar. 1 Wed.  *Django* (Sergio Corbucci, 1966, 93’)

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IX week Mar. 6 Mon.  Article: “In this life, one can die too” (9)
            Wed.  *A bullet for the general* (Damiano Damiani, 1966, 113’)

             **MIDTERM**

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X week Mar. 13 Mon  Article: “There are two kinds of people in the world” (10)

             **MIDTERM DUE**
15 Wed.  The good, the bad and the ugly  (Sergio Leone, 1966, 176’)

XI week  Mar. 20  Mon. }  Spring Break Holiday
              “  22  Wed. }

XII week  Mar. 27  Mon.  Article: “Since when are wolves afraid of wolves?” (11)
             29  Wed.  The big silence  (Sergio Corbucci, 1967, 105’)

XIII week  Apr. 3  Mon.  Article: “Once upon the time in the West” (12)
              5  Wed.  Once upon the time in the West  (Sergio Leone, 1968, 167’)

XIV week  Apr. 10  Mon.  Article: “He keeps alive with his Colt .45” (13)
             12  Wed.  They call me Trinity  (Enzo Barboni, 1970, 104’)

XV week  Apr. 17  Mon.  Article: “A secret of a long life is to try not to shorten it” (14)
              19  Wed.  My name is Nobody  (Tonino Valerii, 1973, 108’)

XVI week  Apr. 24  Mon.  “Duck, you sucker!” pp. 183-85 – Article:
             “Spaghetti and politics” (2 people) (15)
              26  Wed.  A fistful of dynamite  (Sergio Leone, 1971, 154’)

Final Week: May 3-9 (Wed. to Tuesday)

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

Grade Distribution:

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Final..............................                    30%
Attendance.......................                    10%
Midterm..........................                    40%
Oral presentation/Class discussion.             20%

Grade Scale:

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

Midterm: will include essay questions on 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 exams. All films are on Reserve.
Final: a short paper based on the analysis of one of the spaghetti westerns given in the list at the end of this syllabus and available for viewing at the Media Center.

Oral presentation/ Class discussion: 10’ presentation on the main points of the article read or of the film viewed. Teacher will give students a guideline (questions) for discussion.

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.

Italian Majors and Minors: the students will be required to read the article (in Italian and on line) entitled “Non più eroi,” (16 - ON LINE) and watch Il colosso di Rodi.

Textbook: packet of photocopies available at Campus Copy.

Peplum films: (On Reserve)

(In Italian) Il colosso di Rodi, Sergio Leone, 1961 (one of the best peplum), with Rory Calhoun, Lea Massati.
DVD PN1995.9 F67 C653 2000

Samson and the 7 miracles of the world, Riccardo Freda, 1962, with Gordon Scott.

Spaghetti westerns: (On Reserve)


Find a place to die, DVD PN 1997 F412 2002, Giuliano Carmineo (A. Ascott), 1968, with Jeffrey Hunter.

Trinity is still my name, Video PN 1995.9 F67 C6649 1995, E.B.Cluncher, 1972, with Bud Spencer, Terence Hill.


Bibliography (On line)

(Filmography see packet – 17)

Articles included in packet taken from the following books:


Gunsberg Maggie, Italian cinema: Gender and Genre. Palgrave, 2005
PN 1995.9 S47 G86 2004

Hughes Howard, Once upon a time in the Italian West. I.B. Tauris, 2004
PN 1995.9 W4 H84 2004