

ITALIAN SOCIETY IN FILM

ITA 261-1 fall 2021

M/R 3:30-4:45pm

course information

Course Number: ITA 261-1 (CRN 1327)

Credit Hours: 4

Class, Days, Times & Location: M&R 3:30-4:45pm, VH 217

Film Screenings: T 5:00-7:50pm, OM 238

Modality: Seated. Attendance Required

Modules: 4 (~ 9 hours each) + homework (average 6 hours per week)

technology

Course Website: <https://ldolasinski.wixsite.com/website-6>

Twitter (class feed: @italyonscreen) <https://twitter.com/italyonscreen>

mask policy

As of August 6th, there is an on-campus, indoor mask requirement for everyone, including those who are fully vaccinated ([Overview of fall 2021 COVID-19 policies at SUNY New Paltz](#)). We will continue to follow and abide by all regulations required by SUNY New Paltz.

technology requirements

- You will need to have access to a computer and high-speed internet
- You will use Webex and other video conferencing platforms for office hours
- You will have to know how to turn the video camera and microphone of your computer on in Webex & how to navigate Blackboard
- For tech support regarding use of Blackboard contact: blackboard@newpaltz / 845. 257. 4357

goals and objectives

- to analyze and interpret significant **themes and events** in contemporary Italian society
- to gain literacy in the language and concepts of the **analysis of moving image culture**
- to **compare features of contemporary Italy** to those of other regions, cultures, and civilizations
- to clearly **analyze premises, synthesize arguments, and evaluate content** in appropriate historical, cultural, and film contexts
- to employ a range of **critical thinking skills** in blog entries, class discussions, and creative research projects

instructor contact information

Professor: Dr. Lisa Dolasinski

Department of Languages,
Literatures & Cultures

dolasinl@newpaltz.edu

Email is the preferred method of communication. I strive to respond to emails within 24 hours. Emails received during the weekend and after 9pm may experience delayed responses.

Virtual Office Hours

M & R 1:00-2:30pm, T 1:00-2:00pm,
& by appointment

Schedule an appointment here:
<https://calendly.com/dolasinski/office-hours?>



Smetto quando voglio (I Can Quit Whenever I Want, Sydney Sibilia, 2014)

"A film has to be aimed at everyone, a bit of subtle comedy but a bit of crude humor too. The great films are those that speak to the whole audience at the same time."

- Sydney Sibilia

what we'll watch

work & the economy

- *Il capitale umano* (Human Capital, Paolo Virzì, 2014)
- *Smetto quando voglio* (I Can Quit Whenever I Want, Sydney Sibilia, 2013)
- *Quo vado?* (Gennaro Nunziante, 2016)

organized crime & outlaws

- *Gomorra* (Matteo Garrone, 2008)
- *La paranza dei bambini* (Piranhas, Claudio Giovannesi, 2019)

migrants & second-generation Italians

- *Terraferma* (Emanuele Crialese, 2011)
- *La sconosciuta* (The Unknown Woman, Giuseppe Tornatore, 2006)
- *Bangla* (Phaim Bhuiyan, 2019)

queer identities

- *Call Me by Your Name* (Luca Guadagnino, 2017)
- *Io e lei* (Me, Myself and Her, Maria Sole Tognazzi, 2015)
- Season 2 of *SKAM Italia* (TIMvision, 2018)

course description

Making use of a multidisciplinary approach, this course will explore how contemporary Italian cinema has mirrored, responded to, and, in some cases, anticipated cultural and social transformations of Italian society. A central aim of this course is to better understand present-day Italy and Europe, by viewing and discussing those films produced in Italy that most reflect the nation, its culture, and its society. A secondary objective will be acquiring the appropriate language and tools necessary to analyze and discuss media. Topics will include work & the economy, organized crime & outlaws, migrants & second-generation Italians, and queer identities.



Il capitale umano (Human Capital, P. Virzì, 2014)



Smetto quando voglio (I Can Quit Whenever I Want, S. Sibilis, 2013)

tips for success

- use the viewing guides provided on the course website
- keep in mind that each film has been selected because it corresponds with a particular socio-cultural aspect of contemporary Italian society
- remember that one of our goals is to acquire the tools and vocabulary necessary to talk clearly about film and how a film works; use them as much as you can!
- if you are having trouble focusing on non-plot elements of a film, try watching with the volume off
- break larger assignments/ assessments into smaller 'chunks'; time management is essential for success
- if you don't understand a concept or term, ask!



La paranza dei bambini (Piranhas, C. Giovannesi, 2019)

class schedule

day-to-day assignments are posted on the course website (detailed calendar)

WEEK	DAYS	TOPIC/ FILM	MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS
1	23, 26 aug	Course introduction	
2	30 aug 2 sept	Module 1: work & the economy <i>Il capitale umano</i> (Human Capital, P. Virzi, 2014)	Scene Analysis: Explanation, Example, Sign up (2 September) Viewing guide 1- due by midnight on Friday, September 3 on BB
3	6, 9 sept	Module 1: work & the economy <i>Smetto quando voglio</i> (I Can Quit Whenever I Want, S. Sibilila, 2013)	6 September- Labor Day, No classes in session Viewing guide 2- due by midnight on Friday, September 10 on BB
4	13, 16 sept	Module 1: work & the economy <i>Quo vado?</i> (G. Nunziante, 2016)	Viewing guide 3- due by midnight on Friday, September 17 on BB
5	20, 23 sept	Module 2: organized crime & outlaws <i>Gomorra</i> (Matteo Garrone, 2008)	Viewing guide 4- due by midnight on Friday, September 24 on BB
6	27, 30 sept	Module 2: organized crime & outlaws <i>La paranza dei bambini</i> (Piranhas, C. Giovannesi, 2019)	Viewing guide 5- due by midnight on Friday, October 1 on BB
7	4, 7 oct	Course review + Module 3: migrants & second-generation Italians	Meme / TikTok (midterm review), 4 October Explanation: UNESSAY + annotated bibliography (final) Library Research Session, 7 October Viewing guide 6- due by midnight on Friday, October 8 on BB
8	11, 14 oct	Module 3: migrants & second-generation Italians <i>Terraferma</i> (E. Crialese, 2011)	11 October- Indigenous Peoples' Day / Columbus Day, No classes in session 12 October- Fall Break, no film screening
9	18, 21 oct	Module 3: migrants & second-generation Italians <i>La sconosciuta</i> (The Unknown Woman, G. Tornatore, 2006)	Viewing guide 7- due by midnight on Friday, October 22 on BB
10	25, 28 oct	Module 3: migrants & second-generation Italians <i>Bangla</i> (P. Bhuiyan, 2019)	In-class session: Unessay proposal (bring to class completed)- October 25 Viewing guide 8- due by midnight on Friday, October 29 on BB
11	1, 4 nov	Module 4: queer identities <i>Call Me by Your Name</i> (L. Guadagnino, 2017)	Viewing guide 9- due by midnight on Friday, November 5 on BB
12	8, 11 nov	Module 4: queer identities <i>Io e lei</i> (Me, Myself and Her, M. Sole Tognazzi, 2015)	Unessay proposal- due by midnight on Friday, November 12 on BB Viewing guide 10- due by midnight on Friday, November 12 on BB
13	15, 18 nov	Module 4: queer identities <i>Season 2 of SKAM Italia</i> (TIMvision, 2018)	Viewing guide 11- due by midnight on Friday, November 19 on BB
14	22, 25 nov	Course conclusions	[Un]essay presentations (final)- November 22, 29 & December 2 (during class) 24-26 November- Thanksgiving Recess, No classes in session Please complete SEIs: November 24- December 8
15	29 nov 2 dec	Course conclusions	[Un]essay presentations (final)- November 22, 29 & December 2 (during class) Please complete SEIs: November 24- December 8

[Un]essay + annotated bibliography + final reflection due by 4:45pm on Monday, December 13



Bangla (P. Bhuiyan, 2019)

“Representation FOR stereotypes is a huge problem because it flattens and reduces our identities to simple cardboard shapes. But the representation OF stereotypes is not bad: to condemn it would represent a further risk of discrimination, more subtle but equally terrifying. Stereotypes and clichés exist because they originate from the observation (albeit limited and limiting) of “common” characters in others: what must be rejected is the superficial, instrumental, prejudicial use of these characters, but not the very fact that they have a place in people.”

- Pietro Turano, actor in *SKAM Italia* & Vice President of Arcigay Roma



more about Italian at New Paltz

We offer courses in the language, literature, film, and culture of Italy and Italians in the world. If you are interested in learning more about courses in the **Italian Studies Program**, ask me about our course offerings.

course policies

Communication

It is the student's responsibility to regularly check her/his university email address, which is going to be the only email address used for classroom correspondence. Daily homework, resources, and any changes to the syllabus will be communicated in class and posted on the course website.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is a student obligation, and students are responsible for all work, including film screenings, homework assignments, and assessments. Two unexcused absences are permitted during the entire semester. Each absence after the permitted ones will result in an automatic deduction of 2 percentage points from your total participation grade at the end of the semester. 3 late arrivals or leaving class early = 1 absence. Repeated absences will seriously impact your final grade; more than 10 unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course. You should try not to miss any lessons, but if absolutely necessary, it is your responsibility to determine work missed in class and what is expected for the next class meeting.

Preparation & Participation

Presence and participation are mandatory. Please be respectful to your classmates; extend grace and patience to peers and your instructor as we navigate this course together.

Readings and discussion questions must be completed before class. They are posted on the course website (detailed calendar). I reserve the right to randomly collect students' responses to discussion questions and adjust preparation grades accordingly (i.e. incomplete/insufficient responses will negatively impact students' grades).

You are allowed TWO excused absences. Beyond two unexcused absences, a student's final participation grade will be decreased by 2 percentage points per absence. Repeated unexcused absences will seriously impact the final grade; more than 10 unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Cases of illness or emergency will be handled on an individual basis. Please contact me as soon as possible so that appropriate actions can be taken.

Extra Credit

You can earn extra credit by tweeting at and/or replying to tweets on our class Twitter feed (@italyonscreen)

- 10 posts and/or replies= 3 bonus points
- 8 posts and/or replies= 2 bonus points
- 5 posts and/or replies= 1 bonus point

* Extra credit can be earned only if all course assignments/assessments are submitted on time.

grading scale

A 94-100	A- 90-93	B+ 87-89
B 84-86	B- 80-83	C+ 77-79
C 74-76	C- 70-73	D+ 67-69
D 64-66	D- 60-63	F below 60

assessment and grading

Late work will be accepted after the submission deadline. It will be penalized 5% per day of lateness. Final grades will be based on the following components:

Attendance, preparation & participation

10%

Viewing guides

instructions on course website

30% (3% x 10)

Scene analysis

instructions & rubric on course website

15%

Meme / TikTok (midterm review)

instructions on course website

10%

[Un]essay (final)

instructions & rubric on course website

20%

Annotated bibliography

instructions & rubric on course website

10%

Final reflection

instructions on course website

5%

campus resources & policies

Academic Assistance

The [Center for Student Success](#) (CSS) provides students with peer based academic skills coaching and advising, online tutoring, subject tutoring in historically difficult courses, and writing support across the curriculum. CSS services are intended to enhance, not supplant, other forms of collaborative learning. The Center also houses the campus-wide student success system, powered by Starfish. Please visit our website for syllabus statements regarding CSS services and encourage your students to visit the CSS website to learn more about the services available.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty in their college work. Cheating on any assignments or assessments will result in prompt academic disciplinary action. All work must represent a student's individual effort. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarized work will automatically receive a 0 and the incident will be reported to the Department Chair, Academic Dean, and Associate Dean for Student Affairs as described at http://www.newpaltz.edu/ugc/policies_integrity.html

Accommodations

Students needing classroom and/or testing accommodations related to a disability should contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (Haggerty Administration Building, Room 205, 845-257-3020) as close as possible to the beginning of the semester. The DRC will then provide students' instructors with Accommodation Notifications verifying the need for accommodations. Specific questions about services and accommodations may be directed to Deanna Knapp, Assistant Director (knappd@newpaltz.edu) or Jean Vizvary, Director (vizvaryj@newpaltz.edu).

Add Drop Policy and Academic Calendar

The last day for course withdrawal is October 29. Partial-refund and other key deadlines are listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). The mid-point of the semester is October 10.

Black Solidarity Day

Students who will not be attending class on Monday, November 1, to take part in Black Solidarity should notify their professors ASAP to determine a path to make up missed work. They will not be held accountable for absence on that day.

Computer and Network Policies

Users of New Paltz's computer resources and network facilities are required to comply with the [Acceptable Uses and Privacy Policy](#) and other [institutional policies](#) related to computer and internet access and usage.

Delays and Emergency Cancellations Policy

The instructor will follow New Paltz's guidelines regarding campus delays and emergency cancellations, as highlighted at <http://www.newpaltz.edu/emergency/policy.html>. Information about campus closing or delays can be obtained by calling 257-INFO or checking the SUNY New Paltz webpage. It is strongly encouraged that students register for the campus's NPAalert emergency text-message service (<http://www.newpaltz.edu/npalert/>). Commuters who do not feel safe driving on the roadways in case of inclement weather when classes are not delayed/canceled, will need to make their best judgment about whether to travel or not.

Identity Verification Policy

New Paltz's [Online Identity Verification Policy](#) is designed to verify that students enrolled in our online courses and/or programs are the ones who take the courses, complete the programs, and receive the academic credit. The [complete policy](#) is published in the Undergraduate Catalog.

Military Obligations

In partnership with academic and professional faculty, the [Office of Veteran & Military Services \(OVMS\)](#) makes every effort to provide reasonable

accommodations for individuals who must be absent due to military obligations. The student and faculty member must agree that the length of the absence is reasonable for the type and structure of the course and must devise a written plan detailing expectation for successful course completion. Students who actively participate in the United States Military Reserve or National Guard are highly encouraged to provide each faculty member, as well as the OVMS, a copy of their Reserve and/or National Guard schedule during the first week of class each semester. Note: The [undergraduate student military leave policy](#) and the [graduate student policy](#) are available online for reference.

Religious Observations

New Paltz faculty complies with New York State Education Law (Chapter 161, Section 224). Students who plan on being absent to observe a religious holiday will not be accountable for their absence that day. They must inform their professors ASAP to determine a path to make up missed work.

SEI

Student Evaluations of Instruction (SEIs) will be available online during the open period from November 24 - December 8 for all courses with five (5) or more people. You are invited to provide constructive feedback via the relevant link on my.newpaltz.edu website. I value your input.

Technical Support

For technical support, including account and system related issues, go to support.newpaltz.edu to visit our knowledge base or submit a support ticket 24 hours a day. The Service Desk is available during business hours (see support.newpaltz.edu) for live support (HUM 103. Phone: 845-257-4357. Email: servicedesk@newpaltz.edu).

Title IX and Related Policy

Gender discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual violence, stalking, and power-imbalanced sexual/romantic relationships between faculty and students are strictly prohibited within the SUNY New Paltz community. We encourage students to report, confidentially discuss, or raise questions and concerns regarding potential violations. Reports can be made to the Title IX Office, the department chair and/or the dean of your school. For information on Title IX reporting and support, visit <https://www.newpaltz.edu/titleix/>. The College's Consensual Relationship Policy can be found at [HR Policies](#).