

Western University
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Film Studies Program (Department of English and Writing Studies)

**CLC 2133A/Italian 2241F/Film 2192F- Italian Popular Films
Fall 2018**

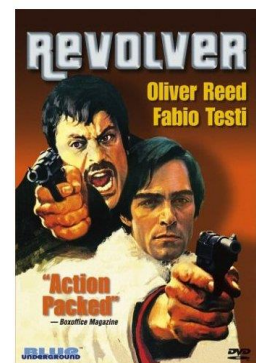
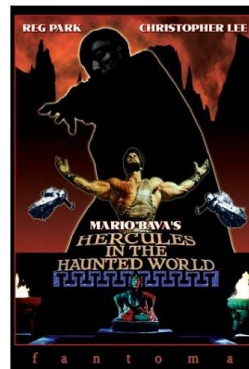
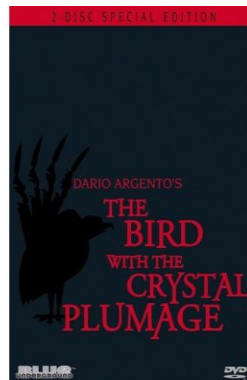
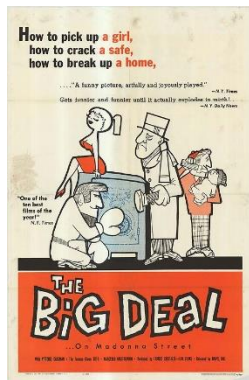
Screenings: Tu 7-10.00, UC 1405 (Th 7-10, UC 2110 only with permission)
Lectures: Th 11.30-1.30 pm, WL 258

Professor Yuri M. Sangalli, UC 4313

office hours: by appointment

☎: 661-2111 ext. 87390

✉: Please use OWL for all course correspondence
(login: <http://owl.uwo.ca/>)



You are responsible for the information that follows. Please read it carefully.

Course outline and aims:

This course will provide an introduction to the most successful and exported genres of Postwar Italian Cinema, such as the *Commedia all'italiana*, the Italian Western, the *Poliziesco*, the *Giallo* and the Horror Film. The wide international appeal of Italy's popular cinema in the 1960s and 1970s derives from the stylized, exaggerated, cutting, often humorous renditions of a world regularly portrayed as ruthless and vengeful by filmmakers working within different genres. The course will examine: the key concerns, the ideological implications, and the cultural anxieties expressed by each genre; the strong influence and relation with earlier vehicles for expression of the collective imagination (fantastic literature, domestic comic books, the *commedia dell'arte* theatre tradition, etc.); genre history and development; the breakdown of conventional narrative and the self-reflexive direction taken within several genres in the 1970s. Boundaries between genres, sub-genres, hybrid genres, and the legacy of specific films within and beyond national borders will receive attention. A conceptual framework will be drawn from theories of narrative structure and generic conventions (genre theory), and from recent Italian social history. The concepts learned will be applied when analyzing the narrative organization and the conventions of style of the films screened. "Popular genres" aims:

- To analyze genre-films in terms of theories of narrative structure and generic conventions
- To identify and explore the key organizing principles of Italian popular genres and their relation to the broader social, historical, and (national/global) cultural contexts in which they are produced
- To consider connections between Italian genres and popular genres in film industries around the world (e.g., Hollywood, Japan, Hong Kong, etc.)
- To understand the relationship between text, inter-text and context
- To generate enthusiasm for a deeper understanding of other societies and cultures and offer a wider consideration of the study of genres through the lens of Cinecittà (the Italian film industry)
- To introduce students to the different concepts of what constitutes genre studies by broadening their understanding of the genesis and evolution of film-genres, and by enriching their appreciation of the problems and issues in identifying genres
- To generate enthusiasm for a deeper understanding of other societies by enhancing the students' intercultural competence with reference to Italian and North American popular culture

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course students will be able to do the following:

- Gain familiarity with the significant films of individual genres and be conversant about their critical and audience reception in national and international contexts
- Show an ability to read and evaluate key genre-films through skills of textual analysis and in terms of generic conventions
- Exhibit a broad knowledge of significant cultural, social and political issues and an understanding of individual genres in relation to the changing national/global contexts of their production
- Analyze and describe the internal organization of Italian popular genres not simply with regard to a list of independent properties, but as a process of evolving, interrelated features
- Be prepared to participate in class discussions (both individually and by engaging constructively in group work) with a growing degree of familiarity, competence and sophistication
- Select information from a range of library and web-based sources and effectively translate the results of their independent research into information that can be disseminated in several different communication formats (oral, written, web-based)
- Refine their appreciation of similarities and differences in relation to specific intercultural elements and situations (e.g., distinct national cultural, social and political issues, variable film style and film genre conventions, etc.)

Texts:

Required: Course package, available in September at the Western bookstore.

Recommended: Peter Bondanella, *Italian Cinema: From Neorealism to the Present*. 3rd ed. New York: Continuum, 2001.

Marking scheme:

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| Mid-term test (2 hours, see course schedule) | 15% |
| Presentation + report (written/web-based) | 15% |
| Essay (2500+ words) | 25% |
| Final exam | 30% |
| Class participation and attendance* | 15% |

*attendance taken at each screening and class



Students are expected to attend all screenings and lectures and complete all readings before coming to class. Late Assignments will lose 5% per day including weekends for 2 weeks, after which they will no longer be accepted. Students are responsible for contacting their Instructor immediately should they fail to submit coursework within the deadline. Assignments will not be accepted after the last day of term. Please keep hold of a hard copy of your essay.

Class conduct and etiquette:

In an emergency, if you miss class, having someone take notes during your absence is better than nothing. However, please keep in mind that no set of notes, no matter how exhaustive, can duplicate the classroom experience. The best learning takes place in the space between professor and students. In addition, please note that it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate, and that the instructor is not obliged to share notes or PowerPoint presentations with students.

Recording of lectures is not permitted. Exception: students with my permission, following a request from the Student Development Service.

Lectures in this course provide students with an opportunity to learn. Be courteous to your classmates: respect their right to benefit from the lectures by refraining from loud conversations or chatting. If a quick exchange is necessary, please be considerate: limit the discussion to what is essential to the lecture, be brief, and **whisper!**

Please **do not**: leave during lectures, come to class habitually late, surf the web, check your messages, go on Facebook, or otherwise engage in activities that distract from the classroom learning experience and demonstrate a lack of concern for the instructor and your classmates. Such behavior **will not be tolerated**.

At times your instructor may employ "active learning" techniques to help students engage with new material. During such activities, all students are strongly encouraged to participate in the group or class discussion, and to ask questions. As all of you know, participation will supplement your learning and enhance your class experience, so do your best to participate and show enthusiasm! Students who disrupt these activities or refuse to participate, will be asked to leave.

Email policy: emails from students are very welcome, but please make sure that the answer to your questions is NOT included in the syllabus or course outline **before** emailing your instructor. In particular, students are to refrain from emailing the instructor to ask about assigned readings: once available, see your course reader for a schedule of all reading assignments; until then, simply consult the OWL course websites, as per class instructions.

Please keep in mind that I may not always find sufficient time to give your email a same day reply, especially later in the day, or on weekends. When meeting in person or setting up a phone appointment is necessary, I will notify you.

Electronic devices: under no circumstances is texting (writing or reading), listening to music, or playing with any kind of handheld devices permissible or tolerable while in class! As a courtesy to your classmates and to avoid disrupting the lecture or distracting your fellow students, always turn off your cellular phone before entering class and be sure to keep cell phones, ipods or any other hand-held device in your bag, at all times. Use of laptops for purposes other than taking notes (i.e., to access the Internet, watch videos, play games, etc.) is strictly prohibited. Although laptops may be used during lectures, during screenings they are distracting to viewers seated behind you and consequently **they must be shut off** (please use pen and paper to take notes during screenings). Please be advised that the instructor may require a student to shut down a computer or any electronic device if used for purposes others than those related to the course.

Prerequisites:

CLC 2133A: None

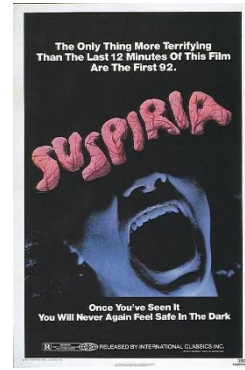
ITA 2241F: None

Antirequisites:

None

Please Note:

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites (or have special permission from your Dean to waive the prerequisite) and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. If you are not eligible for the course, you may be removed from it at any time, and it will be deleted from your record. In addition, you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.



Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

Absenteeism

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca> (under the Medical Documentation heading)

