

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome Italian Studies Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title: Rome on-Screen and in Print
Course Number: IS 305
Credits & hours: 3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites: ENG 102

Course description

The focus of this course will be the city of Rome and selected literary works and films in which the city plays a prominent role. The course will examine literary and cinematic portrayals of the eternal city from classical to present times as a way of exploring certain periods of Rome's history. Conducted in English.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of major periods of Italian history and literary and cinematic production featuring the city of Rome
2. critically examine literary and cinematic texts
3. produce oral and written reports on literary and cultural topics
4. search and use electronic and non-electronic library resources

Course Learning Activities

- Compulsory weekly readings and weekly lectures will provide students with background information on Italy's cultural history and developments of specific cultural phenomena to contextualize the material under analysis.
- Participation in class discussions, and debating alternative perspectives, is a crucial element in developing theoretical knowledge and analytical skills. As part of class discussions, students will analyze specific texts and examples of Italian culture as well as express their own opinions.
- On-site class(es) will provide students with direct personal observation of some of the phenomena under analysis in class.
- Film screenings and short clips from documentaries and movies will be used at several stages in the course in order to highlight some key issues and provide more in depth information.

Assessment tools

Class participation	10%
Oral presentation	15%
Outline, bibliography and abstract	10%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Research project (5% outline/bibliography/abstract and 20% final paper)	25%
Final Exam	20%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic
Week 1	Course Introduction Topic: Ancient Rome in cinema Clips from films such as: • Ben Hur • Quo vadis? • The Gladiator
Week 2	On-site class to areas of classical Rome featured in selected films
Week 3	Topic: Christian Rome Readings from texts such as: • Boccaccio's The Decameron Clips from films such as: • Angels and Demons • Godfather III On-site class to areas of Christian Rome
Week 4	Topic: Medieval/Renaissance Rome Readings from texts such as: • Dante's Inferno • Petrarch's Letters On-site visit to areas of medieval and Renaissance Rome
Week 5	Risorgimental Rome Readings from: • Poems by Belli and Trilussa • Stendhal's Passeggiate romane • Madame de Stael's Corrine On-site visit to Museo di Roma
Week 6	Life in Rome during Fascism and WWII Clips from: • Una giornata particolare • Roma citta' aperta • La Ciociara Readings from: • Gli indifferenti (Moravia) • La Ciociara (Moravia) • La storia (Elsa Morante) On-site visit to areas of Fascist Rome
Week 7	Oral Presentations Midterm exam
Week 8	Rome from Post-WWII Period to Economic Boom Clips from: • Ladri di biciclette • Il sorpasso • Un americano a Roma

	• I soliti ignoti On-site visit to film location of Ladri di Bicicletta (Porta Portese)
Week 9	Organized Crime and corruption in Rome (1970's-1980's) Clips from: • <i>Romanzo criminale</i> • <i>Il Divo</i>
Week 10	Multicultural Rome Clips from: • <i>Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio</i> Readings from: • <i>Scontro di civiltà per un ascensore a Piazza Vittorio</i> (Amara Lakhous) On-site visit to multicultural areas of Rome
Week 11	Rome in the films of great directors: Pasolini, Fellini
Week 12	History of the Cinematic Industry in Rome Visit to Cinecittà
Week 13	Contemporary views on Rome Clips from: • <i>La grande bellezza</i> Student oral presentations Course conclusion /Final review
Week 14	FINAL EXAM

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		