

# SCREENING “MALE CRISES”: ITALIAN-STYLE

ITA 375-1 spring 2022

M/R 3:30-4:45pm

## course information

Course Number: ITA 375-1 (6226)  
Credit Hours: 4  
Class, Days, Times & Location: M&R 3:30-4:45pm, HUM 207  
Film Screening: T 5:00-7:50pm, LC 108  
Modality: Seated. Attendance required.  
Modules: 28 (75 mins. each) + homework (average 6 hours per week)

## technology

Course Website  
<https://ldolasinski.wixsite.com/website-8>  
Blackboard Collaborate Ultra  
Twitter (class feed: @italyonscreen) <https://twitter.com/italyonscreen>

## technology requirements

- You will need to have access to a computer with headphones, a microphone, a webcam, and high-speed internet
- You will use Webex and other video conferencing platforms for virtual office hours
- You will have to know how to turn the video camera and microphone of your computer on in Webex and other video conferencing platforms & 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 Italian history, society, and media representations of masculinity
- to gain literacy in the language and concepts of the [analysis of moving image culture](#)
- to [compare representations masculinity in Italian media](#) 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



Otto e mezzo (8 1/2, Federico Fellini, 1963)

## instructor contact information

Professor Dolasinski (she/her/hers)

Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures

 [dolasinl@newpaltz.edu](mailto: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?>

“Man is not fundamentally a monogamous animal. Marriage is tyranny, a violation and mortification of one’s natural instincts.”

- Federico Fellini, *Playboy* Interview, 1966

# what we'll watch

All films will be screened remotely. Instructions for accessing and viewing films are on Blackboard.

- *Una giornata particolare* / A Special Day (Ettore Scola, 1977)
- *Il conformista* / The Conformist (Bernardo Bertolucci, 1970)
- *Ladri di biciclette* / Bicycle Thieves (Vittorio De Sica, 1948)
- *Ieri, oggi, domani* / Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow (Vittorio De Sica, 1963)
- *I cento passi* / One Hundred Steps (Marco Tullio Giordana, 2000)
- *Otto e mezzo* / 8 ½ (Federico Fellini, 1963)
- *Teorema* / Theorem (Pier Paolo Pasolini, 1968)
- *Posti in piedi in paradiso* / A Flat for Three (Carlo Verdone, 2012)
- *Ali ha gli occhi azzurri* / Ali Blue Eyes (Claudio Giovannesi, 2012)
- *La grande bellezza* / The Great Beauty (Paolo Sorrentino, 2012)
- *Puoi baciare lo sposo* / My Big Gay Italian Wedding (Alessandro Genovesi, 2018)

## course description

"There is a myth currently circulating about Italian masculinity. Italians do it better."<sup>1</sup> Considering Italy's claim to legendary icons of virility like Casanova, Don Giovanni, and Maciste it's no wonder. All Italian men are *masculine*, right? Well, it depends.

Through the medium of film, we will explore the ways in which patriarchal family structures, fascism, and mafia culture have influenced, and continue to inform, dominant conceptions of masculinity in Italy. Masculinity will be treated as a performative construct, shaped by evolving socio-cultural and political concerns. The films screened will span several decades and cross multiple genres in order to trace the various ways mediated performances of masculinity sustain, destabilize, satirize, and/or revise stereotypes of Italian masculine identity (the Latin lover, the *mafioso*, the *maschio italiano*, and the *mammone*). Students will deepen their knowledge of competing notions of masculinity through exposure to alternative ways of 'being a man'. We will focus primarily on male protagonists in 'crisis,' especially men who perform 'failing' masculinities: absent fathers, fallen patriarchs, 'feminized' men, impotent lovers, and isolated elders.



*Il conformista* (The Conformist, Bernardo Bertolucci, 1970)



*Ladri di biciclette* (Bicycle Thieves, Vittorio De Sica, 1948)

## method

This course requires students to work independently and follow a very structured procedure. You will be involved in a variety of online tasks, such as reading articles and film reviews, screening media, and submitting assignments.

## 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!

"For separated fathers, one of the greatest pains is not being able to see their children. But there is also a financial tragedy: they're a new category of poor people."

- Carlo Verdone,  
*Cineuropa* Interview, 2012



*Posti in piedi in paradiso* (A Flat for Three, Carlo Verdone, 2012)

# class schedule

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

WEEK	DAYS	TOPIC/ FILM	MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS
1	24, 27 jan	Course introduction	
2	31 jan 3 feb	<i>Una giornata particolare</i> (Ettore Scola, 1977)	Viewing guide 1- due by midnight on Friday, February 4 on BB Explanation & Example: SCENE ANALYSIS Sign up for SCENE ANALYSIS
3	7, 10 feb	<i>Il conformista</i> (Bernardo Bertolucci, 1970)	Viewing guide 2- due by midnight on Friday, February 11 on BB
4	14, 17 feb	<i>Ladri di biciclette</i> (Vittorio De Sica, 1948)	Viewing guide 3- due by midnight on Friday, February 18 on BB
5	21, 24 feb	<i>Ieri, oggi, domani</i> (Vittorio De Sica, 1963)	<b>21 February, Presidents' Day. No classes in session.</b> Viewing guide 4- due by midnight on Friday, February 19 on BB
6	28 feb 3 marc	<i>I cento passi</i> (Marco Tullio Giordana, 2000)	Viewing guide 5- due by midnight on Friday, March 4 on BB <b>Traverso Lecture: Thursday, March 3, 5:00-6:30pm- location TBD</b> (*extra credit opportunity*)
7	7, 10 mar	<i>Otto e mezzo</i> (Federico Fellini, 1963)	Viewing guide 6- due by midnight on Friday, March 11 on BB <b>14-18 March- Spring Recess, no classes in session</b> <b>Meme/ TikTok (midterm course review), presented in class on Monday, 21 March</b>
8	21, 24 mar	<b>Course review (Meme/ TikTok)</b>	<b>LLC193 Lecture: "Global Hip-Hop in/and Italy," Monday, 21 March, 5:00-6:00pm- location TBD, (*extra credit opportunity*)</b> Explanation: UNESSAY, annotated bibliography & reflection paper (final) <b>Library Research Session, 24 March</b>
9	28, 31 mar	<i>Teorema</i> (Pier Paolo Pasolini, 1968)	Viewing guide 7- due by midnight on Friday, April 1 on BB
10	4, 7 apr	<i>Posti in piedi in paradiso</i> (Carlo Verdone, 2012)	Viewing guide 8- due by midnight on Friday, April 8 on BB <b>Unessay proposal (completed before class)- Monday, April 11</b>
11	11, 14 apr	<b>Unessay proposal (workshop)</b> <i>Ali ha gli occhi azzurri</i> (Claudio Giovannesi, 2012)	Viewing guide 9- due by midnight on Friday, April 15 on BB <b>Unessay proposal- due by midnight on Friday, April 15 (on BB)</b>
12	18, 21 apr	<i>La grande bellezza</i> (Paolo Sorrentino, 2012)	Viewing guide 10- due by midnight on Friday, April 22 on BB
13	25, 28 apr	<i>Puoi baciare lo sposo</i> (Alessandro Genovesi, 2018)	Viewing guide 11- due by midnight on Friday, April 29 on BB
14	2, 5 may	<b>Course conclusions</b>	<b>UNESSAY PRESENTATIONS (final)- May 2, 5 &amp; 9 (during class)</b>
15	9 may	<b>Course conclusions</b>	<b>UNESSAY PRESENTATIONS (final)- May 2, 5 &amp; 9 (during class)</b>

**FINAL (UNESSAY, ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY, & REFLECTION PAPER)**

**DUE MAY 16 by 4:45pm (on BB)**



*Ali a gli occhi azzurri* (Ali Blue Eyes, Claudio Giovannesi, 2012)



*La grande bellezza* (The Great Beauty, Paolo Sorrentino, 2012)

“Being a man, I am much more critical of my own gender. Because women are a mystery to me, I tend to have positive projections onto them. Probably the fact that I don’t know the means I idealise them much more than I can with male characters.”

- Paolo Sorrentino, *The Guardian*  
Interview, 2016

## 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.



Follow us on  
**Instagram**



NP\_ITALIAN

# 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](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](mailto:knappd@newpaltz.edu)) or Jean Vizvary, Director ([vizvaryj@newpaltz.edu](mailto:vizvaryj@newpaltz.edu)).

## Add Drop Policy and Academic Calendar

The last day for course withdrawal is March 31. Partial-refund and other key deadlines are listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). The mid-point of the semester is March 11.

## 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 NPAlert 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 April 27 - May 11 for all courses with five (5) or more people. You are invited to provide constructive feedback via the relevant link on [my.newpaltz.edu](http://my.newpaltz.edu) website. I value your input.

## Technical Support

For technical support, including account and system related issues, go to [support.newpaltz.edu](http://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](http://support.newpaltz.edu)) for live support (HUM 103. Phone: 845-257-4357. Email: [servicedesk@newpaltz.edu](mailto: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](#).

## Maintaining Public Health (Mask Policy)

To protect the health of everyone in this class, all students are required to wear a mask or other face covering while inside campus buildings. Your mask must adequately cover both your nose and mouth. This is in keeping with the College's fall 2021 policy of an on-campus, indoor mask requirement for everyone, including those who have been fully vaccinated and received a booster. A student who comes to class without a mask will be required to obtain one before returning to class. A limited number of masks may be available at designated locations on campus. Any student who refuses to wear a mask or face covering may not enter the classroom nor participate in the class. There will be no exemptions or waivers of the 100% compliance mask policy. Continued refusal to wear a mask or face covering will be reported to the Student Conduct Office based on Student Conduct Code's 'Non-Compliance with Official Requests' (which includes public health policy). Masks are for both your own and for others' safety and wellbeing – please remember our campus commitment to the 'We Not Me' approach, and take this simple step to protect yourself and others. Students with temporary illnesses must work with professors and make arrangements to make up coursework. For more information about The Pledge and expectations, go to "[Protect New Paltz: A Pledge to Stop the Spread of COVID-19](#)."