# Contemporary Italian Cinema

## Prof. Raffaele Chiarulli

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with essential knowledge about Italian cinema of the last twenty years, with reference to television series and in relation to the cinematography of the previous decades.

By the end of the course, students will be able to successfully apply the main analytical techniques to audiovisual products, taking a primarily textual approach, with a particular focus on cinema as a cultural product.

There will be a particular focus on the practice of scriptwriting as the vehicle for the initial conceptual development of the relationship between word and image.

***COURSE CONTENT***

After some introductory historical background, the course will focus on analysing certain practices of the Italian audiovisual industry from the last twenty years, with particular attention on cinema, its genres and its authors. Several films representative of the period will be analysed in more detail, especially in terms of narrative. The lecturer will provide students with a list of titles (foreign students will only be required to learn about and analyse films with available English subtitles). Further details will be provided by the lecturer during the course.

A study of script-writing practices will serve to determine, in the analysis of films, how much of that which stimulates our social practices, through film, can be defined as strictly Italian and how much belongs to a broader narrative imagination.

***READING LIST***

***For all students:***

D. Howard-E. Mabley, *The Tools of the Screenwriting. A Writer’s Guide to the Craft and Elements of a Screenplay*, St. Martin Press, New York 1993; Italian translation *Gli strumenti dello sceneggiatore. Una guida pratica alla scrittura. Un’analisi strutturale di 12 grandi film*, Dino Audino, Rome 1999.

Lecture notes.

***For foreign students only:***

P. Braga, *The Italian Storytelling Approach to TV Seriality Compared to US Method. A Case Study*, in “Comunicazioni Sociali – Journal of Media, Performing Arts and Cultural Studies”, no. 3, 2019.

A. Fumagalli – P. Braga, Italian scripted television: generalist appeal and international market access, in F. Colombo (ed.), *Media and Communication in Italy: Historical and Theoretical Perspectives*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano 2019, pp.113-124; Massimo Locatelli: pp. 165-177.

***For Italian students only:***

A. Fumagalli-C. Albani-P. Braga, (eds.), *Storia delle serie tv – Volume II. L’era dei canali cable e delle nuove piattaforme*, Dino Audino, Rome 2021 (only pp. 36-79 and 226-248).

C. Munarin, *La vita viene prima. Il cinema di Francesco Bruni*, Fondazione Ente dello Spettacolo, Rome 2021.

Details of any further reading material will be provided by the lecturer during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is delivered by means of frontal lectures.

Further reading and materials presented during the course will be provided via the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment is divided into two parts: in the first part, students must produce a 10-15-page analytical paper on an Italian film from the last 20 years chosen by them from the list proposed, using the scriptwriting textbook on the reading list as their main reference in terms of method.

The second part will consist of an oral exam to assess the acquisition and correct understanding of the contents of the course. The combined mark for the paper and the oral exam will be out of thirty.

Answering three or four questions of roughly equal weight on the content in the syllabus, students will be assessed on their knowledge of the subject and their presentation and analytical skills.

The final mark will reflect the accuracy and completeness of students' answers, but also their ability to justify statements, opinions and analyses, and appropriate use of specific terminology during the exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an introductory course, it has no prerequisites in terms of contents. However, students are expected to be interested in and intellectually curious about cinematography, understood both as art and entertainment.

In case the current COVID-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.