

# GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: ITAL 308: Italian through Cinema  
Credits: 3 Credits  
Instructor: Henry Batterman



Study Abroad, 502 E. Boone Ave, Spokane, WA 99258-0085 • (800) 440-5391 • [www.gonzagainflorence.org](http://www.gonzagainflorence.org) • [studyabroad@gonzaga.edu](mailto:studyabroad@gonzaga.edu)

---

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course uses Italian films to help students improve language proficiency and deepen their understanding of Italian history and culture. Italian cinema closely reflects national culture and each film is chosen for its focus on one or more aspects of Italian society. Preparation for viewing includes background reading, thematic discussions and vocabulary building exercises. All films are in the DVD format, allowing students to increase comprehension by following Italian subtitles as they listen to dialogues. A broad range of films will be shown, from Neo-realist classics such as Rossellini's *Roma città' aperta* to modern films such as Benigni's *La vita è bella* and Faenza's *Alla luce del sole*. The course will be taught in Italian and is designed specifically for upper-intermediate and advanced students.

## REQUIREMENTS

For each film students are required to prepare a film review which includes basic information (the director, cast, plot summary, etc.) along with a personal reaction and analysis of individual scenes.

As a pre-viewing exercise, designated students will read selected scenes from film scripts and present important characters.

Four in class exams

As a final project, students have two choices:

- 1) Presentation and review of a film not shown in class, with specific reference to its social and historical context. Viewing and discussion of two of the film's key scenes.
- 2) Presentation regarding one issue of Italian culture covered during the course

Active participation in class discussions and regular attendance.

## TEXTS - Selections from

- *L'ITALIANO AL CINEMA* Cristina Maddoli, Guerra Edizioni
- *ITALIAN THROUGH FILM.....*
- *HOLLYWOOD ITALIAN* Paola Casella, Baldini Castoldi
- *ITALIAN CINEMA* Peter Bondanella Continuum
- HANDOUTS

## GRADING

Quizzes	35%
Film reviews	35%
Final project	15%
Class Participation	15%