Watch movies and talk about them!

Learn about Italian history and culture through film!

This course examines Italian cinema from its origins to the present. This course may be of interest to you for several reasons: Because it is a survey course, studying films produced in Italy since the early 1900s to the present will give you a trajectory of some of the most important aspects of Italy’s modern history, including its national unification (Risorgimento), Fascism and Resistance, the Reconstruction of the postwar period, the period of the Economic Boom, followed by the Social movements of the late 60s and 70s, the terrorism of the 80s and the Berlusconi era of the 90s and new millennium. You may also use these films as an approach to studying Italy’s cultures, as you get a view of critical debates about politics, religion, gender and sexuality taken up in these films. Finally, you can use this course to learn more about cinema as an art form, which uses various techniques of mise-en-scène, editing, sound, and narrative in order to tell its story. Italian film plays a very important role in the history of Global Cinema, and you will view a few of its canonical and influential masterpieces. You will learn about individual directors like the neorealist Rossellini and De Sica as well as about the evolution of genre film in Italy. No previous courses in film OR Italian history are required for this course, just an interest in film and in learning more about Italian culture.

Contact Amy Chambless (achamble@email.unc.edu) with questions.

This course fulfills a North Atlantic Word (NA) requirement and a Visual and Performing Arts (VP) requirement.