

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: Italian Media and Popular Culture
Course Number: IS 320
Credits & hours: 3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites: ENG 102

Course description

This course has a thematic approach, applying the analytical theories of cultural studies to contemporary Italian media and popular culture, focusing on: the evolution of Italian print and broadcast media in terms of their impact on Italian culture and society; the effect of Italy's regional character on sports, use of language, gastronomic traditions; the role of folktales, popular theatre and folk music; popular expressions of religious life (Carnival, Passion Plays etc); the relationship between local craftsmanship and high fashion. Students will apply and develop their analytical skills by actively engaging with these phenomena through field trips, case-studies and example texts.

Conducted in English.

Required Textbook (subject to change)

- Forgacs, D. and Lumley, R. (eds) Italian Cultural Studies, Oxford University Press, London, 1996
ISBN: 198715099

Entry Fees

Students are responsible for all entry fees. Students will pay a fee to cover the cost of the field-study trip.

Course Learning Objectives

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

1. demonstrate topic knowledge of Italy's post-war cultural history and contemporary expressions as they relate to development of the media and popular culture
2. conduct a critical analysis of a wide range of texts and cultural items identifying key issues and themes, style and form, and applying the analytical approaches of Italian cultural studies and theories of popular culture
3. develop observational and fieldwork skills by carrying out individual or team research projects on Italian social rituals and behaviour. They will further their oral presentation skills by exposing their findings to the class. They will refine their written skills through an analytical research paper

4. demonstrate the ability to grasp abstract concepts, synthesize them and apply them to a specific context. Students will develop information literacy skills that will enable them to conduct good quality bibliographical research, use electronic resources, and master citation techniques with competence and in accordance to anti-plagiarism standards and regulations

Course Learning Activities

- Compulsory weekly readings and weekly lectures
- Lectures
- Personal or team case-study
- Oral presentation
- Analytical essay
- Fieldtrip
- Two quizzes

Assessment tools

2 Quizzes	10%
Participation in class	15%
Research Project	35%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Introduction to the course. Cultural studies methodology Lecture and discussion: Theories and debates on popular and mass culture	Read Italian Cultural Studies p. 111 Read Italian Cultural Studies p. 199-215
Week 2	Development and forms of Italian print media Class discussion: Group analyses of various examples of easily understood Italian print media	Buy an Italian newspaper/magazine and analyse it with questionnaire Read Italian Cultural Studies p.233-247
Week 3	Development and contemporary role/impact of radio and television Class discussion: Group analyses of various television genres (English on-line versions where available), program schedules, and advertising	Watch a TV program and analyse it for class discussion Read article on women in ItalianTV Read Italian Cultural Studies p.19-33
Week 4	Italian Regionalism and Localism. Historical causes, contemporary manifestations (dialects and linguistic minorities) Football. Local identities, politics and the media. Analysis of a mass sporting event (soccer match). Visit to Ethnographic Museum (tbc)	Find examples of soccer fandom in Rome (interviews, bars, banners, graffiti etc) Read Italian Cultural Studies p. 129-143
Week 5	Quiz 1 Religious expressions: Catholicism and Paganism. The social role of religious festivities and pilgrimages. Class discussions on Carnival, Passion Plays, Nativity scenes (role of St. Francis), local Saints' days, Padre Pio Analysis of popular reactions to the death and funeral of Pope John Paul II.	Read and analyse a folktale for discussion next class (handouts)
Week 6	Folklore and Folktales (Collodi: Pinocchio, Calvino: Italian Folktales) Film: Benigni, Pinocchio (145 mins)	
Week 7	Finish Pinocchio. Class discussion and brief pre-exam review Mid-Term Exam	
Week 8	Popular Theatre (Commedia dell'arte, puppet theatre) Visit to a puppet show, or visit from Commedia dell'arte actors, and class discussion. Deadline for research project outlines	
Week 9	Craftsmanship and Fashion. Local textile and craft traditions, and their relationship to high fashion Feedback on individual or team research projects: clarification of themes, scope, organization and fieldwork methodology. Advice on bibliographical searches. Class discussion of relationship between popular craft, local identities and high fashion	
Week 10	Food, wine and local identities Deadline for updated essay and presentation outlines	
Week 11	Quiz 2 Music. Popular and Folk music, il cantautore Class discussion: contemporary Italian music, Il Festival di San Remo, global influences	
Week 12	Fieldwork presentations Fieldwork presentations Essays due	
Week 13	Conclusions and 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		