

## Italian 3338– Books on the Big Screen

**Prerequisite(s):** Italian 2250 or 2250W/X or 2202

**Pre-or Co-requisite:** Italian 2215F/G or permission from the Department.

Instructor: Dr. Cristina Caracchini

Classes: Tuesday: 1:30-2:30; Thursday: 1:30-3:30 AHB 3B15

Office Hours: TBA or by appointment AHB 3R16A

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### Course Content:

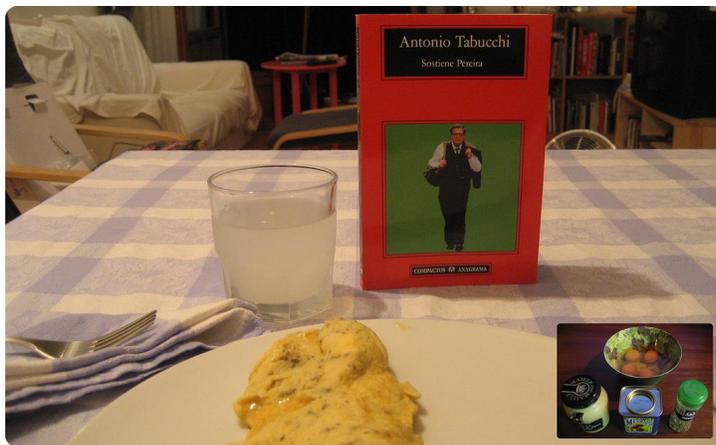
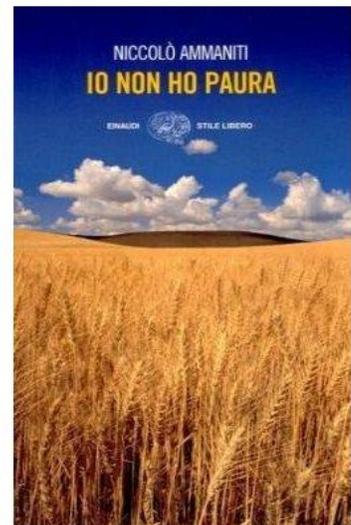
This course will introduce students to the cinematic works of some of the best-known contemporary Italian directors, and to the bestselling novels that inspired them.

Our lessons will be filled by the extraordinary destinies of passionate, original, and thought-provoking Italian characters whose lives have been stricken by events that will turn them upside down forever. Scared children fighting against too familiar kidnappers, well-established judges challenging the very judicial system that they represent, and journalists opposing political censorship will provide us with examples of courage, heroism and *engagement*.

Their acts of resistance to different forms of violence, be it of a criminal (*Io non ho paura*), political (*Sostiene Pereira*), judicial-institutional (*Porte aperte*), or economic nature (*La vita agra*) will be the thematic “red thread” of our course. We will see how their social, historical and philosophical motivations are to be considered defining elements of Italy’s cultural fabric.

Students will become familiar with the various stages of Italian political and socio-economic history described in the novels. We will compare and contrast the novels with their cinematic versions and for this purpose, questions of authorship, adaptation, contamination, and genres will be covered.

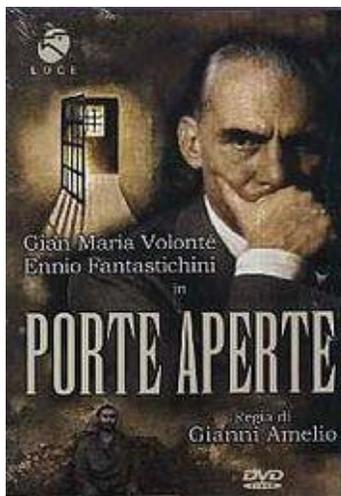
The course is taught in Italian. The reading of all four novels is required: two in English and two in Italian (supported by their English translation). Particular attention will be given to the building of a pertinent Italian vocabulary in order to allow academic-standard discussion.



## Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- be familiar with important contemporary writers and film directors
- possess an understanding of crucial periods of Italian and European history
- have improved oral and written communication skills in Italian
- be able to discuss theoretical approaches to questions of authorship, contamination, reception and adaptation
- recognize and contrast features specific to the cinematic and literary genres, and be able to apply this knowledge to their own analysis of each artistic work.
- have gained familiarity with pertinent scholarly databases and have developed the ability to do autonomous research.



## Required Texts:

- 1) **A Reader** (prepared by the instructor)
- 2) **Theory text:** Linda Hutcheon, *A Theory of Adaptation*, Routledge, [2006], 2012.
- 3) **Novels** (also available in translation)
  - Niccolò Ammaniti: *Io non ho paura*, Torino, Einaudi, 2001.
  - Leonardo Sciascia, *Porte Aperte*, Milano, Adelphi, 1987.
  - Antonio Tabucchi, *Sostiene Pereira*, Feltrinelli, 1994.
  - Luciano Bianciardi, *La vita agra*, Milano, Rizzoli, 1962.

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## The books are also available in English (on reserve at Weldon Library):

- Ammaniti, *I Am Not Scared*
- Sciascia, *Open Doors and Three Novellas*
- Antonio Tabucchi, *Pereira Declares*
- Luigi Meneghello, *The Outlaws*.

## The following movies (subtitled) will be put on reserve at the Resource Centre.

- Io non ho paura** / regia di Gabriele Salvatores. - Medusa, c. 2003.
- Porte aperte** / regia di Gianni Amelio. - 1989. Leonardo Sciascia,
- Sostiene Pereira** / regia di Roberto Faenza. - E.Mik, 1995.
- La vita agra** / regia di Carlo Lizzani. – c. 1964.

Please note that the **OWL page** for this course is to be consulted before each lesson as it contains both required and optional learning material.

## Course evaluation and guidelines:

a) Midterm	25 %
b) Group Presentation	20 %
d) Essay (on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor)	30 %
e) Close-Reading Assignment	15%

f) Active Participation	10%
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- a) The Midterm will consist of essay questions and text recognition. **N.B.:** Presentations by peers are integral parts of the course content.
- b) 20 minutes per person, to be followed by class discussion. Each group will be assigned a different topic to cover and present to the rest of the class. Students are to provide the class with an outline of their presentation. and prepare two final questions (per person) for the class, to verify the effectiveness of their presentation. Students will be evaluated for their individual performance (i.e., for their capacity to develop and illustrate a particular aspect of the topic assigned to their group) and for their contribution to the performance of the group (i.e. how their individual performance fits in and adds to the group's performance).
- e) Two page long answers to questions posted by the instructor.
- f) Active and assiduous participation is a requirement for the course.

The **Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Modern Languages and Literatures courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures website at <http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

### **Policy concerning Electronic Devices**

Cellular phones must be turned off during class. The use of electronic devices, including laptops, is not allowed in class unless differently stated by the instructor on specific occasions or unless you have requested and obtained explicit permission.