

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
Winter 2018-2019

Italian 2242G/CLC 2131B
Rome: The Eternal City

Instructor: Luca Pocci (lpocci@uwo.ca), UC 4307

Office hours: Wednesday, 4:30-6:30

Teaching Assistants: Persheng Yari and Shahrzad Izadpanah

Office hours: TBA

Classes: Wednesday, 2:30-4:30pm, WSC 240



Course Content and Aims

All roads lead to Rome! So, let's go! Let's take a virtual tour of the only city in the world that has been blessed with the privilege of being called eternal. In this course you will discover the unique cultural wonders of Rome by immersing yourself in its 3000 years of history and in a unique urban landscape, where the presence of a majestic past provides the exciting background for the hustle and bustle typical of a modern-day metropolis. During your journey you will learn how to identify and appreciate the stylistic features of architectural must-sees (including the Colosseum, the Pantheon, Saint Peter's) and artistic masterpieces (Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel, Raphael's *School of Athens*, Bernini's Baroque sculptures, among others). While exploring myths of origins (the stories of Aeneas and of Rom-

ulus and Remus) you will relive the sense of marvel at the breathtaking sights offered by the eternal city emerging from the descriptions of illustrious foreign writers (Goethe and Stendhal). Additionally, you will familiarize yourself with Rome as a dazzling setting for the big screen by being exposed to a pair of contrasting cinematic representations of its cityscape: the 1953 Hollywood classic *Roman Holiday* and Pier Paolo Pasolini's *Mamma Roma* (1962). Finally, in the course of our virtual tour you will be introduced to some aspects of Roman popular culture - cuisine, sport, lifestyle - so that next time you are in the Eternal City you can really do as the Romans do.

The course is taught in English. Coursework in part in Italian for Italian program students only.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Engage in visual interpretations of the social and urban space through films and other media
- Identify in the synchronic texture of the city the traces of its diachronic development and apply this methodology to examine the complexity of the Italian urban landscape
- Use different media and genres to reconstruct the history of Rome from Latin Antiquity to the present
- Participate in class discussions (both individually and by engaging constructively in group work) with a growing degree of familiarity, competence and sophistication

Texts

- A Reader prepared by the instructor will be available at the Western bookstore

Marking Scheme

Participation 10%

Midterm 20%

Quiz 15%

Short Essay

(1250 words; 5 double-spaced pages, MLA style) 25%

Final Exam 30%

Participation and Preparation: students are expected to maintain regular attendance and to participate actively. Participation is assessed on the basis of day-to-day preparation and contribution to group work and in-class discussions. All assignments must be completed before coming to class.

Please note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites (or have special permission from your Dean to waive the prerequisite) and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. If you are not eligible for the course, you may be removed from it at any time, and it will be deleted from your record. In addition, you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions can not be appealed.

Absenteeism

Students seeking accommodation on missed tests, exams, components and/or to the Academic home Faculty and Academic be granted by the department.

UWO's Policy on Medical Illness:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies (which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in the department's courses) are available [here](#). It is your responsibility to understand these policies, and thus ignorance thereof cannot be used as grounds for appeal.



academic
medical grounds for any
participation
assignments must apply
Counseling office of their
provide documentation.
accommodation cannot
instructor or

Accommodation for