

## 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: Monday: 1:30-3:30; Wednesday: 1:30-2:30 AHB 3B15

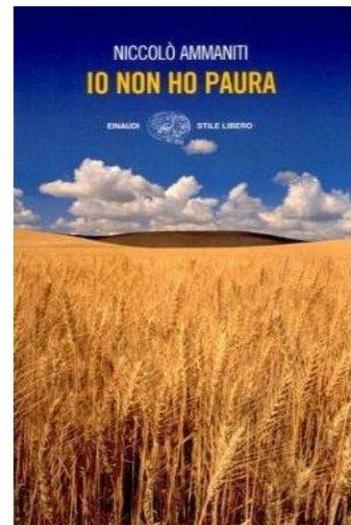
Office Hours: Thursday 11:30-1:00 or by appointment

E-mail: ccaracch@uwo.ca

### Course Content:

The course will introduce students to the cinematic works of some of the best-known Italian directors, and to the bestselling literary texts that inspired them, and will highlight the diverse modalities in which the literary sphere and the cinematic one intersect. We will accompany the extraordinary destinies of scared children fighting against too familiar kidnappers, of well-established judges challenging the very judicial system that they represent, of brave policemen with whom Italians have woven a twenty-year long love story, and of a man whose sharp words keep firmly unwrapping life of its illusions. Their stories will provide us with examples of courage, heroism and *engagement* that will be the thematic “red thread” of our course.

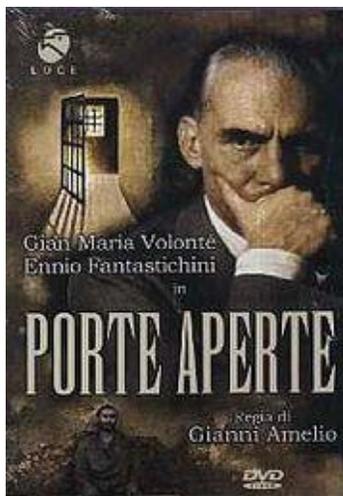
Students will become familiar with the various stages of Italian political, socio-economic and literary history described in the films/books analysed. We will compare and contrast the novels with their cinematic versions and for this purpose, and will discuss the place reserved to poetry in the cinematic narration. Questions of authorship, adaptation, contamination, and genres will be covered. The course is taught in Italian. The reading of the English translations of the three novels is required. Excerpts selected by the instructor will be read in Italian. 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 novelists and film directors
- be familiar with the poetic works of G. Leopardi
- possess an understanding of crucial periods of Italian 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) **Literary texts:**

- Niccolò Ammaniti: *I Am Not Scared*, Canongate Books, 2003 (*Io non ho paura*, Torino, Einaudi, 2001). 1841952974
- Leonardo Sciascia, *Open Doors and Three Novellas*, Vintage, 1993. (*Porte Aperte*, Milano, Adelphi, 1987). 0679735615
- Andrea Camilleri, *The Snack Thief*, Penguin Books, 2005. (*Il ladro di merendine*, Milano, Rizzoli, 1962). 0142004731
- Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*, Mariner Books, 2014. (*Il nome della rosa*, Bompiani 2014). 0544176561
- Giacomo Leopardi *Poems (a Bilingual Edition)*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. 0374533059

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**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

-**Il ladro di merendine** / regia di Alberto Sironi

-**Il giovane favoloso** / regia di Mario Martone

-**Il nome della rosa** / regia di Jean-Jacques Annaud

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	20 %
b) Group Presentation	20 %
c) Essay (on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor)	30 %
d) 3 quizzes	20%
e) Active Participation	10%

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 (film/book) 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).

d) In class quizzes

e) 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.