

This course is a comprehensive introduction to the work of filmmakers associated with Italian Neo-Realism and its immediate legacy. We begin with the earliest films that defined the movement. These productions were mostly filmed in urban and rural locations, frequently casting real people in place of actors to depict the conditions of the poor and working class in post-war Italy. The course will follow the development of the movement as it responds to the changed economic and political conditions in Italy and the influence of cultural developments in Europe and the United States, in particular the films of the French New Wave. These influences inspired more deeply personal stories and introduced a sense of mystery and fantasy that sought to raise Neo-Realism above the frequently despairing stories of its earlier, defining films.

In addition to the films selected for viewing, we will also read and discuss selected essays by writers and filmmakers associated with Neo-Realism, with a particular focus on the theories of screenwriter Cesare Zavattini. All articles will be posted to canvas as pdf files.

I have noted which films are presently accessible on Amazon Prime, but most films are accessible on the Criterion Channel, which will serve as the primary viewing platform for the course. Students can sign-up for the Channel here: <https://www.criterionchannel.com/>

Week One September 29, 2022 Roberto Rossellini's Post-War Trilogy

Rome, Open City (Roma, città aperta), 1945. 103 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/rome-open-city>

<https://archive.org/details/roma-citta-aperta-roberto-rossellini-1945-b-n-720p>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzHCRL1Ujc4>

Paisan (Paisà), 1946. 120 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/paisan>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNBqYDwuVkk>

Germany, Year Zero (Germania anno zero). 1948. 78 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/germany-year-zero>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoMbwxr12Rk>

Week Two October 6, 2022: Vittorio De Sica

The Children Are Watching Us (I bambini ci guardano). Vittorio De Sica, 1944. 84 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/the-children-are-watching-us>

Shoeshine (Sciuscia) [Roman Trilogy], 1946. 87 minutes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33fLzDoqon0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBGIdmCXQnE>

https://www.amazon.com/Shoeshine-English-Subtitled-Rinaldo-Smordoni/dp/B00565WIYA/ref=sr_1_2

Week Three October 13, 2022: Vittorio De Sica

Bicycle Thieves (Ladri di biciclette [Roman Trilogy]), 1948. 89 minutes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TVw2ctnL22M>

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/bicycle-thieves>

Umberto D. (Roman Trilogy.) 1952. 89 minutes.

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x72r910>

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/umberto-d>

Week Four October 20, 2022: Workers' Lives/Rossellini's Solitude Trilogy

Bitter Rice (Riso Amaro). Giuseppe De Santis, 1949. 108 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/bitter-rice>

https://www.amazon.com/Bitter-English-Subtitled-Vittorio-Gassman/dp/B01CKJCMOK/ref=sr_1_1

Stromboli [Solitude Trilogy]. 1950, 81 minutes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWYj9B6HR-o>

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/stromboli>

Week Five October 27, 2022: Rossellini's Solitude Trilogy

Europe '51 (Europa '51 [Solitude Trilogy]), 1952. 118 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/europa-51>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS8sv4ot2C8>

Journey to Italy (Viaggio in Italia [Solitude Trilogy]), 1954. 97 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/journey-to-italy>

<https://archive.org/details/journey.to.-italy.-1954.1080p.-bluray.-10bit.x-265.-aac.-1.0.-lion-utr>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eztMYLz2uSc>

Week Six November 3, 2022: Transitional Films: Federico Fellini

I Vitelloni. Federico Fellini, 1953. 104 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/i-vitelloni>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSrm3GMUP4s>

La Strada. Federico Fellini, 1954. 108 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/la-strada>

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jSewbxyHYM>

Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvPIe339F_c

Week Seven November 10, 2022: Late Neo-Realism: The Italian New Wave

The Girl in the Window (La ragazza in vetrina). Luciano Emmer, 1961. 90 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/girl-in-the-window>

Il posto. Ermanno Olmi, 1961. 93 minutes

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/italian-neorealism/season:1/videos/il-posto>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbqb3Ktz3GY>

Week Eight November 17, 2022: Legacy of Italian Realism: Michelangelo Antonioni and Pier Paolo Pasolini

L'Avventura. Michelangelo Antonioni, 1960. 144 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/videos/l-avventura>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJVI7aFREb4>

Accattone. Pier Paolo Pasolini, 1961. 117 minutes.

<https://www.criterionchannel.com/directed-by-pier-paolo-pasolini/season:1/videos/accattone>