Classics of Italian Cinema
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Venice Program
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This course will examine masterworks of Italian cinema from 1945 to present. Among the periods to be considered are: postwar neo-realism; ‘60s high modernism; ‘70s revisionism; and, from the ‘80s to today, the cinemas of postmodernism and nostalgia. We will screen one or two films per week and discuss them in light of selected readings. Students will submit response papers, take two exams, and write a final paper of 5-7 pages.

Sample films:

Postwar
Open City (1945)
Bicycle Thieves (1948)
Bitter Rice (1950)
Umberto D. (1952)
Senso (1954)
La Strada (1956)
Big Deal on Madonna Street (1958)

Sixties
La Dolce Vita (1960)
L’Avventura (1961)
Divorce--Italian Style (1961)
Rocco and His Brothers (1961)
Salvatore Giuliano (1962)
8 ½ (1963)
Leopard (1963)
I Findanzati (1963)
Red Desert (1964)
Gospel According to St. Matthew (1964)

Seventies
Conformist (1970)
Death in Venice (1971)
Brother Sun, Sister Moon (1972)
Bread and Chocolate (1973)
Padre Padrone (1977)
Tree of Wooden Clogs (1979)
Christ Stopped at Eboli (1979)

Eighties and Since
Three Brothers (1981)
Night of the Shooting Stars (1982)
Johnny Stecchino (1991)
Mediterraneo (1991)
Stolen Children (1992)
Caro Diario (1994)
La Scorta (1994)
Il Postino (1995)
Life is Beautiful (1998)
Bread and Tulips (2000)
Son’s Room (2001)