

Italian Graduate Courses – Fall 2011

ROIT 63510-01 FILM AND LITERATURE IN ITALY 03:30-06:15 M

J.Welle

This course examines one of the key dynamics of the twentieth century in Italy: the interactions between film and literature. Three interrelated phenomena will be analyzed: 1) the interactions with, and contributions to, cinema and film culture by literary writers, 2) films based on literary texts, and 3) the influence of film on literature. From pre-cinematic media such as the magic lantern and the illustrated book in the nineteenth century to the emergence of digital forms of cinema and new media technologies in the 1990s, Italian writers react to the moving image and take part in shaping both its development and its cultural reception. Along the way, Italian writers produce a rich body of “cinema literature:” interviews and articles, criticism, theoretical interventions, and manifestos, as well as poems, short stories, novels, and plays that demonstrate the impact of cinema on literature. In sum, the relationship between film and literature in Italy sheds light on literary history, on the history of cinema, on the history of intellectuals and media, and on cultural history more broadly. In addition to weekly films, and the preparation of readings, assignments will include 1) class presentations of articles, films and readings, 2) leading class discussions, 3) a research presentation, 4) a research paper. *CL LIT 73981*

ROIT 63540 ITALIAN RENAISSANCE THEATRE: ORIGINS THROUGH COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

C. Moevs **12:30-03:15 T**

Modern theatre as we know it is largely the product of the theory, research, practice, experiments and discoveries of the flourishing theatrical culture of Renaissance Italy. We will trace the development of theatre in Italy from its medieval origins through the European-wide phenomenon of the Commedia dell'arte, focussing in particular on humanistic and Renaissance comedies (including Ariosto, Bibbiena, Machiavelli, Caro, Bruni, Aretino, and Ruzante), but we will also discuss tragedies and pastoral dramas, Renaissance dramatic theory, theatre design, set design, costuming, and staging, using documents from the time. Students will lead discussions on particular plays and subjects, and produce a seminar paper on the play(s) or subject of their choice. *Cross List 73705/MI 63xxx*