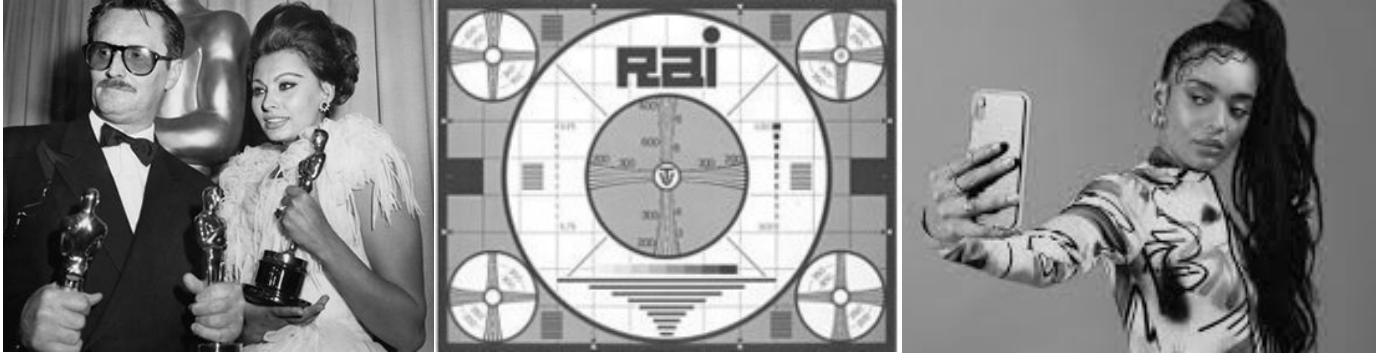


**FIRST YEAR SEMINAR
ITALIAN FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES**



Course Name: Italian 092
Instructor: Dr. Julia Heim
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Office: Williams Hall 534

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Is the land of good food, beautiful landscapes, and *la bella vita* really how it looks in the movies? Where do our ideas about Italy come from and how do they compare to the realities behind the screen? In this first-year seminar we will explore the way that Italian media shapes and is shaped by society; by looking at contemporary, films, television shows, social media, and art, we will explore how “Italianness” gets constructed, what gets left out and why. By investigating representations of “the normal” we will begin to understand how the dominant cultural priorities, biases, and fears of the nation drive the inherent values at the heart of these mediatic depictions. Through written assignments, oral presentations, and multimedia projects we will critically reflect on how identity and representation work to create notions of nationhood and belonging in a multicultural, intersectional, globalized niche mediatic economy.

Course taught in English. Course Materials in English.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

All materials for this course will be available online through canvas, UPenn library, amazon, Netflix, or HBO Max. You will need stable internet access with streaming and downloading capabilities. If a video is not available for free streaming the instructor will facilitate class screenings.

Any student experiencing financial or medical difficulty should please contact the instructor so that alternative pathways toward learning can be arranged. No student will be denied access to learning tools because of situational difficulty.

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Any student may consult with [Student Financial Services](#) to find out what support they are eligible to receive to cover course costs or other items that ensure their health, safety, and secure learning environment.

Course requirements and expectations:

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Participation is an essential part of collective knowledge creation and the communal class environment. Your participation is not only expected but is a mandatory requirement of this classroom; it is a necessary pedagogical tool, as learning through conversation and writing will make up a substantial part of our class work. The grade will be based on your ability and willingness to constructively contribute your reflections and analyses of the course material and class discussions. Daily preparation of all assigned work is essential.

Regular attendance is required to pass this class. You may not miss more than the equivalent of one week of class during the semester. Please note that there are no “excused” absences. Illnesses, emergencies, travel, participation in sports events or other university-sponsored events all count as absences. Your instructor will talk to you after three absences and submit a Courses-in-Touch warning notice to your school office. After four absences, your final grade for the course will be lowered by one sign (e.g., a final grade of B+ will be lowered to a B). For each subsequent absence, your final grade will be lowered an additional sign. Excessive tardiness will be counted toward an absence.

If you are absent, contact a classmate for the assignment and be prepared to hand it in the day of your return. Please inform your instructor immediately of any problems you may have accessing documents. You must report absences through the Course Absence Reports system. For further information regarding attendance, consult the College webpage on Policies Governing Class Attendance: <https://www.college.upenn.edu/attendance>

You must report absences through the **Course Action Notice** system. It is your responsibility to find out what the homework was and come prepared for the next class.

For further information regarding attendance, consult the College webpage on Policies Governing Class Attendance.

CLASSROOM CULTURE:

Remember that your behavior in the classroom matters. This is a shared learning environment and we must be respectful of one another. Our classroom is a *safe space*, by which I mean that everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, religion, gender identity and sexuality must work to both understand and celebrate the differences of ideas, identities, and positionalities of their classmates. Rudeness, offensive language, bullying, and other signs of verbal or physical disrespect or discrimination are not allowed, no exceptions.

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If anyone feels they are the target of discrimination in our classroom please feel free to reach out to me privately.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Students are responsible for all assignments on the syllabus. This means that texts should be CAREFULLY read and studied BEFORE CLASS! There is reading for each class, many of the texts we read will be available for download through blackboard and must be read, printed out and brought to class. Assignments include low-stakes writing exercises, collaborative group projects, internet research and readings.

Failure to come prepared will result in a lower participation grade.

In addition to reading the required materials, students must also do any written homework assignments either discussed during the previous class or made available via blackboard. Should you miss a class it is your responsibility to contact a classmate for the assignment instructions. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

COURSE ACTION NOTICES (CAN):

You will receive a CAN from your instructor if you are having difficulty in any aspect of your performance in the course. You may receive one for attendance, participation, homework, compositions, tests, etc. The CAN is an opportunity for you and your instructor to communicate clearly about your performance in the course and for you to improve upon the points raised by your instructor.

Grading Scale:

100-99 A+	87-83 B	75-74 C-
98-94 A	82-81 B- 80-79	73-72 D+
93-90 A- 89-	C+	71-70 D
88 B+	78-76 C	Below 70 F

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

- **Journal Reading Responses** will be expected twice a week. This is an opportunity for students to individually reflect on the media/literature assigned. This is a private response journal that is meant for the student to critically reflect on the issues they deem most important or interesting based on the topics under investigation. Journals may be written, audio, or video files. (links and supporting multimedia are encouraged).

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- **Blog:** Most weeks students will engage with one another's ideas and thoughts in the class blog. Students must respond to the prompts AND also comment on at least TWO other student's remarks. (links and supporting multimedia are encouraged).
- **Topic Discussion Facilitation:** Students will choose one of the topics we will study in this course, and do some research that will provide the class some historical context to the contemporary issue under investigation. The student will then facilitate a class discussion around the topic.
- **Art and Identity Project:** We have the honor of having an artist work with our class to help guide us through understanding the ways that art can represent identity. The artist will work with the class, guiding us through the creation of our own artistic projects and artist statements.
- **Group Presentation:** Students will collectively perform a comparative analysis of their own research and how it relates to/compares/or contrasts the notions of Italianness at the foundations of their peer's work.
- **Final Project:** The final project is open to student preference. Possibilities include a group video as well as a short Individual paper, an individual video presentation with paper, a multimedia presentation with paper, a longer comprehensive comparative media analysis, an in-depth critical filmic or textual analysis, or a historic or geo-political investigation into a location or event. (with multimedia or video project papers will be 4-5 pages, if just submitting a paper the research paper must be 8-10 pages).

Grade Breakdown: ○ Journal Reading

Responses: 15%

- Blogs: 15%
- Homework: 10%
- In Class Facilitator: 5%
- Art and Identity Project: 10% (art piece 5%; artist statement 5%)
- Group Presentations: 10%
- Final Project: 15% (Peer review 2%; draft 3%; final 10%) ○ Participation: 20%

UNIVERSITY & COURSE POLICIES

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR ITALIAN FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES

Code of Academic Integrity

The Department of Romance Languages fully supports and adheres to all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, etc.) The work you submit in this class is expected to be your own. If you submit work that has been copied without attribution from some published or unpublished source including the Internet, or that has been prepared by someone other than you, or that in any way misrepresents someone else's work as you own, you will face severe discipline by the university.

For more info consult:

University Code of Academic Integrity

<http://www.upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/academic> integrity The

Office of Student Conduct <http://www.upenn.edu/osc>

The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers a wide range of services including individual and group counseling and therapy, crisis intervention, structured workshops, psychological testing, medication reviews, and consultation. One or more of our services could be suitable for you. In the past few years, we have provided individual counseling services to over 2,900 Penn students per year. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). 133 South 36th Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Hours: 9am - 5pm, Monday – Friday. Emergencies: 215-349-5490 (ask for CAPS Clinician on Call). Tel: 215-898-7021. Fax: 215-573-8966. Email: caps@pobox.upenn.edu <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/caps/>

Gender Pronoun

This class community affirms people of all gender expressions and identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let your instructor and colleagues know. Feel free to correct others on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your instructor.

Statement of Inclusivity

This class community strives to be an inclusive learning space, valuing all of our differences. We aim to be respectful of all members of this class, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientation, etc.