

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Siena

Course Title: Evolution of Media in Italy: From Unification to the Present

Course Code: MDST 3107 / ITTR 3107

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Media Studies / Italian Studies

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Course Description

The aim of the course is to explore the specific features of Italian media from the Unification to present, considering how the press, cinema, radio, television and today the Internet have affected and shaped Italian society. The course will follow the constant evolution of media through a timeline of important events such as Risorgimento, Fascism, both world wars, reconstruction and industrialization and the recent political rise of media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi. Major Italian trends, special interpretations of cinema and TV genres, programming strategies, formats as well as historical broadcasts, are explored. Data on the Italian legal, social and political context from 1861 to present are analysed and discusses, always with a direct reference to Italian history and culture (intellectual, popular, consumers patterns and so forth) that is fundamental to properly understand the role of media in this country.

Objectives

During this course, students will develop:

- The ability to relate specific texts to broader social contexts.
- An understanding of the purpose of cultural and critical theory.
- The ability to critically analyse media texts.
- An understanding of the issues surrounding media ownership, production and distribution in Italy.
- They will acquire a broad overview of Italy's emergence as a major world industrial power, providing an acquaintance with the issues affecting ordinary Italians through critical consideration of the ideas, contexts and practices of media-makers in this period.

Methods of Evaluation

Participation 10%

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| Paper and presentation | 30% |
| Midterm exam | 20% |
| Final exam | 40% |

Students are required to submit:

- One written assignments of 10 to 15 pages and present in class about it. The assignment and oral presentation need to demonstrate that the students have undertaken independent research using all available resources, that they have accessed and used appropriately printed resources, the internet, and the materials they have chosen.
- A midterm and a final exam. Exams consist of three essay questions each.

Primary Text

Matthew Hibberd, *The Media in Italy: Press, Cinema and Broadcasting from Unification to Digital*, Open University Press, 2008

Supplementary Texts

Ed. Zygmunt G Baranski and Rebecca J West, *The Cambridge Companion To Modern Italian Culture*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2001.

Peter Bondanella, *Italian Cinema from Neorealism to the Present*, Continuum, New York, 1997

Stefania Benini, *Televised Bodies: Berlusconi and the Body of Italian Women*, in «Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies», 1, 2013, pp. 87-102

Ed. David Forgacs, *Rethinking Italian Fascism: Capitalism, Populism and Culture*, Lawrence and Wishart, London, 1986

Ed. David Forgacs, R. Lumley, *Italian Cultural Studies. An Introduction*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1996

Ed. David Forgacs, Stefano Magistretti, *Italy in the Digital Era: Mapping the New Media System*,

Basingstoke, Carfax, 2001

David Forgacs, *Scenarios for the digital age: convergence, personalization, exclusion*, in «Modern Italy», 6, 2001, 129-139

David Forgacs, *Looking for Italy's public sphere*, in «Journal of Modern Italian Studies», 3, 2013, 348-361

David Forgacs, *Italy's Margins: Social Exclusion and Nation Formation since 1861*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2014

Stephen Gundle, "Film Stars and Society in Fascist Italy", in *Re-viewing Fascism. Italian Cinema 1922-43*, ed. by J. Reich-P. Garofalo, Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington, 2002, pp. 315-339

Jurgen Habermas, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*, Polity Press, Cambridge, 1989

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Antonio Vitti, *Giuseppe De Santis and Postwar Italian Cinema*, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1996, pp. 36-51

Outline of Course Content

TOPIC 1: contemporary Italian history. The role of the media within society. The birth of a public sphere, citizenship and democracy

TOPIC 2: The Unification and the media. The development of early media up to the Risorgimento.

TOPIC 3: The Unification and the media: the development of early media up to the Risorgimento. The liberal years, 1861-1922: newspapers, publishing

TOPIC 4: Theatre and cinema: theater, opera, café chantant. The birth of Cinema.

TOPIC 5: The Media in Fascist Italy: newspapers, publishing industry, radio, cinegiornali.

TOPIC 6: The Post-War Years. Cinema: the myth of Neorealism.

TOPIC 7: The Fifties and Sixties: the popular press, the “fotoromanzi” and Public TV.

TOPIC 8: Private TV and the Berlusconi Era.

TOPIC 9: Mass media and gender.