

Neorealism and Magic Realism in Cinema

Italian Neorealism is one of the most influential, visually distinctive and thematically challenging wave in the history of cinema. The worldwide turmoil that shaped the neorealists' visions then, can be traced in every aspect of the films produced during the very short time neorealism went on. The revolutionary changes and possibilities this wave emerged led other genres and waves to be born like French New Wave.

This course aims to focus on the Italian Neorealism, the thematic and stylistic aspects of the wave by analysing the films of the most significant directors of the time. Once the roots of the Neorealism is fully established and the means and ways are absorbed, the course will shift to discover the magic realism that replaced realism in the European cinema of 1950s. The course will get to the root of the magical realism and similar tendencies in the cinema and the literature that procreated the magic realism definition in the first place.

The course will also feed from Surrealism and Psychological Realism. During the semester, substantial works of literature and painting will be visited in order to get a broader understanding of different approaches of realism.

Understanding the Neorealism in Cinema

The Birth of a New Wave: 'Ossessione', Luchino Visconti

Rossellini's War Trilogy:

'Rome, Open City'

'Paisan'

'Germany Year Zero'

Drifting away from pure Neorealism to Magic Realism

'Miracle in Milan', Vittoria De Sica

'Umberto D.', Vittorio De Sica

Psychological Realism and Fellini's Trilogy of Redemption:

'La Strada', 'Il Bidone', 'The Night of Cabiria'

'Fellini's Amarcord'

Rossellini's Solitude Trilogy

'Stromboli'

'Europe '51'

'Voyage to Italy'

Magic Realism, The Origins

Readings from Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Jorge Luis Borges and Isabel Allende.

Magic Realist Films in Contemporary World Cinema

Film Adaptations:

'Love in the Time of Cholera' by Mike Newell from the novel of Gabriel Garcia Marquez

'The House of the Spirits' by Bille August from the novel of Isabel Allende.

'The Book of Sand', The Everyman Theatre, Liverpool

'Spider's Stratagem' by Bernardo Bertolucci from the novel of Jorge Luis Borges

Surrealism

'The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie' by Luis Bunuel

Analysis from Contemporary Films: Searching for the Roots

'The Purple Rose of Cairo', Woody Allen

'The Adaptation', Spike Jonze

Readings:

Shiel, Mark, Italian Neorealism, Rebuilding the Cinematic City, London, Wallflower Press, 2006.

Orr, John, Post-War Cinema and Modernity, A Film Reader, New York, New York University Press, 2000.

Stam, Robert, Literature Through Film: Realism, Magic, and the Art of Adaptation, Maiden, Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

Durix, Jean-Pierre, Mimesis, Genres and Post-Colonial Discourse: Deconstructing Magic Realism, New York, Macmillan, 1998.