



## Landscape and Architecture in Antonioni, Pasolini, and Rosi

Rutgers University  
Department of Italian  
Italian 560: 674  
Spring 2014  
Mondays, 4:30-7:10  
84 College Avenue (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), Graduate Student Lounge  
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Office Hours: M: 3-4pm; W: 11am-12pm, and by appointment.

From at least as early as the 1930s, Italian cinema has used urban or rural settings to convey the moral status of its characters (the immoral \*femme fatale\*, the hapless peasant, the urban swindler). With the advent of post-World War II neorealism, “the city” emerged as a character in its own right. Indeed, it would be difficult to imagine the films under consideration in this course (by Antonioni, Pasolini, and Rosi) without taking into account how architecture (or its stark and emphatic lack) informs the cinematic frame. Taking its inspiration from filmmakers and theorists who address how cinema, like architecture, structures vision and belief, this course examines how Antonioni, Pasolini, and Rosi both utilize and theorize the encounter between space and human experience. Themes to include: the southern question, urbanization and industrialization in postwar Italy, globalization and ecology.

### Participation: 35%

Regular attendance and active participation are required. Students who make the most of the seminar time by posing thoughtful questions, engaging directly with the texts assigned, and listening attentively to their classmates will receive excellent participation grades.

### 4 in-class close readings/analyses/responses: 20%

Over the course of the semester, each student will be responsible for two brief (10-15 minute) close readings/analyses and two brief (10-15 minutes) responses to a student presentation. Presenters will select a film frame, sequence, or technique for in-class analysis and discussion that considers the readings for the week (or, alternatively, from weeks past). The goal of this exercise is to hone cinematic close reading skills, and to incite discussion about intersections between film theory and practice. Respondents will listen actively to presentations, and will be asked to engage with the presentation in as detailed a manner as possible, offering questions on the presentation and/or further lines of discussion for the group.

### Final paper: 45%

Students will write a 15-page final research paper consisting of a close reading of a film or a film-theoretical essay, drawing from at least one text (film or essay) on the syllabus and relating to at least one of the major topics covered in the course. Students should consult between 3 and 4 secondary sources, and should include a bibliography in MLA format.

Monday, Jan 27. Week 1

- Course introduction

Feb 3. Week 2

- Elena Gorfinkle and John David Rhodes, "Introduction: The Matter of Places." *Taking Place. Location and the Moving Image*
- John Agnew, "Space and Place." *Handbook of Geographical Knowledge*
- Andy Merrifield, "Space." *Henri Lefebvre. A Critical Introduction* (\*print only pp. 99-120)
- David Harvey, "Postmodernism in the City: Architecture and Modern Design." *The Condition of Postmodernity* (\*print only pp. 73-105 of the PDF on Sakai)
- Giorgio Bertellini, "The Earth Still Trembles: On Landscape Views in Contemporary Italian Cinema."

Feb 10. Week 3

Michelangelo Antonioni, *Gente del Po* (1942/47)

Antonioni, *N.U.* (1948)

- Noa Steimatsky, "Aerial: Antonioni's Modernism," *Italian Locations. Reinhabiting the Past in Postwar Cinema*
- Karl Shoonover, "Antonioni's Waste Management," *Antonioni. Centenary Essays*
- Leonardo Quaresima, "Making Love on the Shores of the River Po: Antonioni's Documentaries," *Centenary Essays*

Feb 17. Week 4

Antonioni, *L'avventura* (1960)

- Rosalind Galt, "On *L'avventura* and the Picturesque," *Centenary Essays*
- Thomas Harrison and Sarah Carey, "The World Outside the Window--Antonioni's Architectonics of Space and Time"

**\* SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 - INDEPENDENT ITALIAN FILM SERIES \***

Feb 24. Week 5

Antonioni, *La notte* (1961)

- Sergei Eisenstein, "Montage and Architecture," *Assemblage*
- Giuliana Bruno, "A Geography of the Moving Image." *Atlas of Emotion. Journeys in Art, Architecture, and Film.*
- Mitchell Schwarzer, "The Consuming Landscape: Architecture in the Films of Michelangelo Antonioni," in Mark Lamster, ed. *Architecture and Film*

Mar 3. Week 6

Antonioni, *L'eclisse* (1962)

- Jacopo Benci, "Antonioni and Rome, 1940-62," *Centenary Essays*
- John David Rhodes, "Rome's EUR from Rossellini to Antonioni." *Taking Place*
- Anthony Vidler, "Metropolitan Montage: The City as Film in Kracauer, Benjamin, and Eisenstein," *Warped Space: Art, Architecture, and Anxiety in Modern Culture*

Mar 10. Week 7

Antonioni, *Deserto rosso* (1964)

- Karen Pinkus, "Antonioni's Cinematic Poetics of Climate Change," *Centenary Essays*
- Pier Paolo Pasolini, "The Cinema of Poetry," *Heretical Empiricism*
- Michelangelo Antonioni, *The Architecture of Vision* (selections)

**March 15-23. SPRING BREAK**

Mar 24. Week 8

Pier Paolo Pasolini, *Accattone* (1961)

- John David Rhodes, "Scandalous Desacration. *Accattone* against the Neorealist City"
- PPP, "The Written Language of Reality"
- Michel de Certeau, "Walking in the City." *The Practice of Everyday Life*

**\* SUNDAY, MARCH 30 - INDEPENDENT ITALIAN FILM SERIES \***

Mar 31. Week 9

Pasolini, *Mamma Roma* (1962)

- John David Rhodes, "*Mamma Roma* and Pasolini's Oedipal (Housing) Complex"
- Michel Foucault, "Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias"

Apr 7. Week 10

Pasolini, *Uccellacci e uccellini* (1966)

- Mitchell Scwharzer, "Introduction." *Zoomscape: Architecture in Motion and Media*
- John David Rhodes, "The Allegorical Autostrada." *Stupendous, Miserable City. Pasolini's Rome.*

Apr 14. Week 11

Pasolini, *Il Vangelo secondo Matteo* (1964)

- Noa Steimatsky, "Archaic: Pasolini on the Face of the Earth." *Italian Locations. Reinhabiting the Past in Postwar Cinema*
- Giorgio Bertellini, "The Picturesque Italian South as Transnational Commodity," *Italy in Early American Cinema*

Apr 21. Week 12

Francesco Rosi, *Salvatore Giuliano* (1962)

DENIS COSGROVE-Intro

- Martin Lefebvre, "On Landscape in Narrative Cinema"
- Angelo Restivo, "Tropes of Modernization: The Bandit and the Road"; "Spatial Transformations: Mapping the New Italy." *The Cinema of Economic Miracles. Visuality and Modernization in the Italian Art Film*

**\* SUNDAY, APRIL 27 - INDEPENDENT ITALIAN FILM SERIES \***

Apr 28. Week 13

Rosi, *Le mani sulla città* (1963)

- Iain Chambers, "Architecture, Amnesia, and the Emergent Archaic." *Culture after Humanism: History, Culture, Subjectivity*
- Giuliana Bruno, "City Views: Filmic Cityscape, Artistic Perspective, and Touristic Travel." *Streetwalking on a Ruined Map: Cultural Theory and the City Films of Elvira Notari*

May 5. Week 14

Rosi, *Cristo si è fermato a Eboli* (1979)

- Millicent Marcus, "Rosi's *Christ Stopped at Eboli*: A Tale of Two Italies." *Italian Film in the Light of Neorealism*.
- Giovanna Faleschini-Lerner, "Francesco Rosi's *Cristo si è fermato a Eboli*: Toward a Cinema of Painting"

## Bibliography

- Agnew, John. "Space and Place." *Handbook of Geographical Knowledge* (2011)
- Antonioni, Michelangelo. *The Architecture of Vision* (selections) (2007)
- Benci, Jacopo. "Antonioni and Rome, 1940-62." *Antonioni. Centenary Essays* (2011)
- Bertellini, Giorgio. "The Earth Still Trembles: On Landscape Views in Contemporary Italian Cinema." *Italian Culture* (2012)
- "The Picturesque Italian South as Transnational Commodity," *Italy in Early American Cinema* (2010)
- Bruno, Giuliana. "A Geography of the Moving Image." *Atlas of Emotion. Journeys in Art, Architecture, and Film* (2002)
- "City Views: Filmic Cityscape, Artistic Perspective, and Touristic Travel." *Streetwalking on a Ruined Map: Cultural Theory and the City Films of Elvira Notari* (1992)
- Chambers, Iain. "Architecture, Amnesia, and the Emergent Archaic." *Culture after Humanism: History, Culture, Subjectivity* (2001)
- de Certeau, Michel. "Walking in the City." *The Practice of Everyday Life* (1984 [1980])
- Eisenstein, Sergei. "Montage and Architecture." *Assemblage* (1989 [1937])
- Foucault, Michel. "Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias." *October* (1984)
- Galt, Rosalind. "On *L'avventura* and the Picturesque." *Antonioni. Centenary Essays* (2011)
- Gorfinkle, Elena and John David Rhodes, "Introduction: The Matter of Places." *Taking Place. Location and the Moving Image* (2011)
- Harrison, Thomas and Sarah Carey, "The World Outside the Window--Antonioni's Architectonics of Space and Time." *Italian Culture* (2011)
- Harvey, David. "Postmodernism in the City: Architecture and Modern Design." *The Condition of Postmodernity* (1989)
- Lefebvre, Martin. "On Landscape in Narrative Cinema." *Canadian Journal of Film Studies* (2011)
- Faleschini-Lerner, Giovanna. "Francesco Rosi's *Cristo si è fermato a Eboli*: Toward a Cinema of Painting." *Italica* (2009)
- Marcus, Millicent. "Rosi's *Christ Stopped at Eboli*: A Tale of Two Italies"; *Italian Film in the Light of Neorealism* (1986)
- Merrifield, Andy. "Space." *Henri Lefebvre. A Critical Introduction* (2006)
- Pasolini, Pier Paolo. "The Cinema of Poetry"; "The Written Language of Reality." *Heretical Empiricism* (2005 [1965])
- Pinkus, Karen. "Antonioni's Cinematic Poetics of Climate Change." *Antonioni: Centenary Essays* (2011)
- Quaresima, Leonardo. "Making Love on the Shores of the River Po: Antonioni's Documentaries." *Antonioni: Centenary Essays* (2011)
- Restivo, Angelo. "Tropes of Modernization: The Bandit and the Road"; "Spatial Transformations: Mapping the New Italy." *The Cinema of Economic Miracles. Visuality and Modernization in the Italian Art Film* (2002)
- Rhodes, John David. "The Allegorical Autostrada"; "*Mamma Roma* and Pasolini's Oedipal (Housing) Complex"; "Scandalous Desacration. *Accattone* against the Neorealist City." *Stupendous, Miserable City. Pasolini's Rome* (2007)
- "Rome's EUR from Rossellini to Antonioni." *Taking Place. Location and the Moving Image* (2011)
- Scwharzer, Mitchell. "Introduction." *Zoomscape: Architecture in Motion and Media* (2004)
- "The Consuming Landscape: Architecture in the Films of Michelangelo Antonioni." Mark Lamster, ed. *Architecture and Film* (2006)
- Shoonover, Karl. "Antonioni's Waste Management." *Antonioni. Centenary Essays* (2011)
- Steimatsky, Noa. "Archaic: Pasolini on the Face of the Earth"; "Aerial: Antonioni's Modernism" *Italian Locations. Reinhabiting the Past in Postwar Cinema* (2008)

Vidler, Anthony. "Metropolitan Montage: The City as Film in Kracauer, Benjamin, and Eisenstein," *Warped Space: Art, Architecture, and Anxiety in Modern Culture* (2000)