



LT/CU 340 TOURISTS, SOLDIERS, EXPATS, SPIES: TRAVELLING ITALY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
IES Abroad Milan

DESCRIPTION:

This course examines representations of Americans travelling in Italy as a lens for exploring the US's changing relationship to the world in the twentieth century. Italy offers a rich point of entry for this investigation: the country not only embodied the "Old World" society against which US identity was contrasted and constructed in the 19th and early 20th centuries, it also was occupied at length by the US military in the mid-20th century, received key Marshall Plan financial support, and played a strategic role in US Cold War containment politics. Moreover, and at the same time, Italy was a dominant tourist destination during the postwar mass tourism boom – one with a strong, seductive hold on the American imagination.

This course will ask students to begin unravelling the complicated political, economic, and cultural relationships that these historical facts produced by engaging a variety of texts written by Americans about Italy, including short stories, novels, films, travel guides, US government handbooks, magazine essays, and academic articles. Moving chronologically from the turn of the 20th century to the mid-1960s – a period that saw a shift in US foreign policy from isolationism toward internationalism and the rise of the US as a global power (the "American Century") – we will map various US discourses about Italy and Italian travel circulating during the era. Our investigations of these texts will allow us to identify and evaluate recurring themes, figures, and tropes characterizing representations of Italy and the ways that different genres take up shared attitudes and concerns. Emphasis will be placed on learning how to excavate the ideology and assumptions animating texts. Outlining the myriad ways in which Italy and Italians are depicted as "other" will constitute a through-line of the course.

By the end of the semester, students will not only be able to discuss how cultural values and positions of power or privilege get transcribed in accounts of travel and foreign people and places, they also will have a stronger ability to identify and analyze the stakes of both the representations they encounter and their own experiences abroad.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures, discussion, group work, student presentations

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course Engagement - 10%
- Midterm Exam - 25%
- Final Exam - 25%
- Homework - 20%
- Analytical Paper - 20%

Course Engagement

Active and thoughtful participation in class that demonstrates the student's preparedness and engagement with course material.

Midterm Exam

Short answer and essay questions, conducted in-class. The 3-5 short answer questions will ask students to explain concepts or historical trends discussed in the first half of the semester and to illustrate them with examples drawn from texts studied. The 1-2 longer essay question(s) will ask students to discuss recurring themes related to the learning outcomes of the course by drawing connections between multiple texts and supporting their thoughts with analysis of scenes or examples.



Final Exam

Short answer and essay questions, conducted in-class. The 3-5 short answer questions will ask students to explain concepts or historical trends discussed in the second half of the semester and to illustrate them with examples drawn from texts studied. The 1-2 longer essay question(s) will ask students to discuss recurring themes related to the learning outcomes of the course by drawing connections between multiple texts and supporting their thoughts with analysis of scenes or examples.

Homework

Weekly prompted responses (of 250-500 words length) to reading or viewing assignments and reflections on personal travel in relation to the themes of the course. These assignments are graded on a pass/fail basis.

Analytical Paper

1750-2000 words, prompted (20%). Students will be asked to choose among prompts that address key themes from the course; they will be required to make and support an argument in response to the prompt using more than one text studied in class as well as at least two additional secondary sources. To help them prepare and develop their argument, they will be required to complete two preparatory assignments which will receive instructor feedback.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze a variety of genres of representation – including short stories, novels, films, travel guides, US government handbooks, magazine essays, and academic articles – and how they depict shared values and attitudes
- Identify and contextualize recurring themes, figures, and tropes used to portray Italy and Italians and situate them in relation to larger historical, political, and cultural currents
- Recognize how positions of power or privilege get transcribed in accounts of travel, foreign people, and new places
- Evaluate rhetorical modes of “othering” and the ways they get deployed in U.S. discourses from the period
- Outline key moments in the evolving relationship between the U.S. and Europe during the early and mid-20th century

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As a member of our class community, you are expected to be present and on time every day. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. For this reason, the IES Abroad Milan attendance policy allows for the following number of absences, which are intended to be used for physical and mental health reasons:

- THREE (3) absences in each Italian language course,
- TWO (2) absences in each Area Studies course,
- ONE (1) absence in each seminar course or course meeting 1 day a week,
- ZERO (0) absences in each course of individual music instruction.

Every absence beyond this allowance will automatically result in a penalty of 2 percentage points off the final grade. SEVEN (7) absences will result in a failing grade in Italian language and Area Studies courses. FOUR (4) absences will result in a failing grade in seminar or 1-day-a-week courses. Failure to attend a scheduled exam, test, quiz, or presentation will automatically result in an F grade on that assessment.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Code of Academic Integrity. All work submitted by a student for academic credit should constitute the student's own original work. Any work submitted for academic credit may be subject to review by a textual similarity detection service for the detection of plagiarism and AI usage.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 1 <i>Session 1</i>	Introduction to Class - Syllabus & Course Overview - Italy in the American Imagination - What kind of travel is 'study abroad'?	
<i>Session 2</i>	Theorizing Travel - Thinking about power: the tourist gaze - Thinking about method: close reading and genre – fiction	- Urry and Larsen, "Theories," pp. 2-10. - Jones, "The world's most perfect places are being turned into backdrops for our tourist selfies," April 22 2023, <i>The Guardian</i> - Excerpt from, Bowles, <i>The Sheltering Sky</i>
Week 2 <i>Session 1</i>	Theorizing Travel - Thinking about power: ordering nations - Thinking about method: close reading and genre – historical documents - Early 20th century U.S. foreign policy: isolationism and dollar diplomacy	- Spurr, "The Order of Nations," pp. 61-75. - Excerpt from, Luce, "The American Century"
<i>Session 2</i>	Echoes of the Grand Tour - What was the Grand Tour? - Travelling with Baedeker - Twain's critique of the Grand Tour	- Baedeker guidebook <i>Handbook for Travelers: Northern Italy: From the Alps to Naples</i> (1874), Preface and xi-xxii - Twain, <i>The Innocents Abroad</i> (1869), excerpts Reading response due before class
Week 3 <i>Session 1</i>	Echoes of the Grand Tour - Old World, New World... Old Money, New Money - Who is Daisy Miller?	James, <i>Daisy Miller</i> (1879), pp. 1-33. Reading response due before class
<i>Session 2</i>	Echoes of the Grand Tour - The question of innocence - The Romantic poets & Italy	James, <i>Daisy Miller</i> (1879), pp. 34-end.
Week 4 <i>Session 1</i>	Expats I – the 1920s 1920s American expat culture - Depicting fascist Italy	- Hemingway, "Che Ti Dice La Patria" (1927), 179-185. - Koutonin, "Why are white people expats when the rest of us are immigrants?", <i>The Guardian</i> (13 May 2015) Reading response due before class Travel Reflection due by Friday

Session 2	Soldiers Abroad - Fascism for Hemingway vs. Fascism for Steinbeck - The US soldier experience in WWII - Italy as a character	Steinbeck, <i>Once There Was a War</i> (1958), pp. 131-133, 135-143, 151-153.
Week 5 Session 1	Soldiers Abroad - The Allied invasion of Sicily - Italy - from enemy to ally - Student presentations of historical documents	<i>Soldier's Guide to Sicily</i> (1943), forward and pp. 1-15. - A Pocket Guide to Italian Cities (1944), "Attention" and pp. 1-15. - Buchanan, "I Felt Like a Tourist Instead of a Soldier": The Occupying Gaze – War and Tourism in Italy, 1943-1945," pp. 593-611
Session 2	Soldiers Abroad - Occupation or liberation? - Everyday life in 1944 Naples	Burns, <i>The Gallery</i> (1947), entrance, 1-17, 259-268. Reading response due before class.
Week 6 Session 1	Soldiers Abroad - Joppolo and the idea of the 'good occupation' - Midterm review	Watch <i>A Bell for Adano</i> (1945, 1 hr 43 min)
Session 2	Midterm	
Week 7 Session 1	Tourists in the 'American Century' - The changing US-EU relationship - Reconstruction in Europe	McCarthy, "The Cicerone" (1948), pp. 151-176. Reading Response due before class.
Session 2	Tourists in the 'American Century' - What was the Marshall Plan? - The rise of mass tourism - The idea of tourism as cultural diplomacy	<i>Information on the Marshall Plan for Americans Going Abroad</i> (1949), pp. 1-12. - Endy, "Fellow Travelers: The Rise of Tourism in US Foreign Policy," pp. 34-54.
Week 8 Session 1	Tourists in the 'American Century' - The postwar world order and the origins of the Cold War - Guest Lecture	- The Atlantic Charter (1 pp.) - A Declaration by the United Nations (1pp.) - The NATO Alliance (4pp.) - Introduction to Bretton Woods (1 pp.) - The United Nations Charter (skim, will look at again in class) Travel Reflection due before class.
Session 2	Expats II – The Cold War, Abroad - The American Dream, abroad - Ethnicity, assimilation, and upward mobility	Malamud, "The Lady of the Lake" (1958), pp. 574-596.

Week 9 <i>Session 1</i>	Expats II – The Cold War, Abroad - Race and decolonization in the global Cold War ‘American Innocence’ revisited	- Baldwin, “Stranger in the Village” (1953), pp. 159-175 - Baldwin, “A Letter to My Nephew” (1962), 1 pp. Reading Response due before class.
<i>Session 2</i>	Expats II – The Cold War, Abroad - Who is Tom Ripley? - The relationship between Tom, Dickie, & Marge - Why Italy?	Highsmith, <i>The Talented Mr. Ripley</i> (1955), pp. 1-96. Final Paper question activity due before class.
Week 10 <i>Session 1</i>	Expats II – The Cold War, Abroad - U.S. Cold War cultural values - Travel, class, and upward mobility revisited	Highsmith, <i>The Talented Mr. Ripley</i> (1955), pp. 97-175. Reading Response due before class.
<i>Session 2</i>	Expats II – The Cold War, Abroad - The figure of the Italian policeman - Ethics abroad	Highsmith, <i>The Talented Mr. Ripley</i> (1955), pp. 176-end.
Week 11 <i>Session 1</i>	Critiquing the ‘American Century’ - The Americanization of Italy and its discontents - What about our own travel?	<i>It Started in Naples</i> (1960), 1 hr 35 min Final Paper thesis activity due before class.
<i>Session 2</i>	Critiquing the ‘American Century’ - The 1960s as era of ‘crisis’ - Looking back (and forward) at the US-EU relationship - Final Exam Review!	Demby, <i>The Catacombs</i> (1965), pp. 3-13, 193-218. Reading Response due before class.
	Final Exam Analytical Paper	

REQUIRED READINGS:

- A Bell for Adano* (1945). Directed by Henry King. Produced by 20th Century Fox.
- Baldwin, James. “Stranger in the Village,” *Harper’s Bazaar* (Oct. 1953).
- Baedeker, Karl. *Italy: From the Alps to Naples; Handbook for Travellers* (New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1904).
- Buchanan, Andrew. “I Felt Like a Tourist Instead of a Soldier’: The Occupying Gaze – War and Tourism in Italy, 1943-1945,” *American Quarterly* 68.3 (2016): 593-611
- Burns, John Horne. *The Gallery* (New York: New York Review of Books, 2003).
- Demby, William. *The Catacombs* (New York: Pantheon, 1965).
- Endy, Christopher. *Cold War Holidays: American Tourism in France* (Durham: University of North Carolina Press, 2004).
- Fortune*, 10, no. 1 (July 1934).
- Hemingway, Ernest. “Che Ti Dice La Patria?” *The New Republic*, May 18, 1927.
- Highsmith, Patricia. *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1955).
- It Started in Naples* (1960). Directed by Melville Shavelson. Produced by Paramount Pictures.
- James, Henry. *Daisy Miller* (London: Penguin Books, 2007).
- Malamud, Bernard. “The Maid’s Shoes.” *The Partisan Review* 26, no. 1 (1959).
- McCarthy, Mary. “The Cicerone.” *The Partisan Review* 15, no. 2 (1948).



- Steinbeck, John. *Once There Was a War* (London: Penguin Books, 2001).
- Steinbeck, John. "Positano." *Harper's Bazaar* (May 1953).
- Spurr, David. *The Rhetoric of Empire: Colonial Discourse in Journalism, Travel Writing, and Imperial Administration* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1993).
- Urry, John and Jonas Larsen. *The Tourist Gaze 3.0* (London: Sage, 2011).
- US Army. *Soldier's Guide to Italy*. 1945. 32 pages.
- The Office of Information Economic Cooperation Administration. *Information on the Marshall Plan for Americans Going Abroad*. June 1, 1949.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Barnhisel, Greg. *Cold War Modernists: Art, Literature, and American Cultural Diplomacy, 1946-1959* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2015).
- Ellwood, David. *The Shock of America: Europe and the Challenge of the Century* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).
- Luce, Henry. "The American Century," *Diplomatic History* 23, no. 2 (1999): 159-171.
- Mistry, Kaeten. *The United States, Italy, and the Origins of the Cold War* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014).
- Nash, Dennison. *Hosts and Guests: The Anthropology of Tourism* (Philadelphia: The University of Pennsylvania Press, 1989).