

Venice and Modernity: Screening Venice

Professor Elizabeth Leake

Summer 2019

Course description: This class will explore the city of Venice as it appears on screen and in real life. We'll watch films from such directors as Andrea Segre, Luchino Visconti and Silvio Soldini, then explore the city ourselves to experience first-hand its importance as the setting for so many cinematic masterpieces. We will also examine representations of Venice in order to identify forms of aesthetic modernism within the specifically Venetian context. How do these modernist narrations engage with their location—imagined or otherwise—in Venice and its environs? Is there such a thing as Venetian regional modernism, and what are its parameters? What are their relations to modernism's broader national iteration? What about Venice in Vegas? In California?

Requirements: active participation in all class discussions; midterm and final in-class exams. Discussions in English, readings in English or Italian.

Week 1

13 June Introduction to course; Adaptation theories and modernity

15 June Screening and discussion of Silvio Soldini, *Pane e tulipani* 2000

Week 2

20 June Camillo Boito, *Senso* 1883

22 June Screening and discussion of Luchino Visconti, *Senso* 1954

Week 3

27 June Mann, Thomas, *Death in Venice* 1912

29 June Screening and discussion of Luchino Visconti, *Morte a Venezia* 1971

Week 4

4 July Midterm exam in class

6 July Screening and discussion of Andrea Segre, *Io sono Li* 2011

Week 5

11 July Guest lecture, **Prof. Michele Alacevich**, "The Crisis of Venice"

13 July Discussion of Giuseppe Berto, *L'anonimo veneziano* and Guest lecture, **Prof. Marla Stone**, "Fascism and the Biennale"

Week 6

18 July Tiziano Scarpa, *Venezia è un pesce*

20 July Conclusions and review; Final exam

Supplementary readings for graduate students:

Peter Brook, *The Melodramatic Imagination*

Jonathan Goldberg, *Melodrama. An Aesthetics of Impossibility*

Ben Singer, *Melodrama and Modernity*

Tania Modleski, "Time and Desire in the Woman's Film"

Mary Ann Doane, "The Voice in the Cinema"

Thomas Elsaesser, "Tales of Sound and Fury"

Additional texts and topics:

Venice, the Moon, and You 1958 (dir. Dino Risi)

Foscolo, *Ultime lettere di Jacopo Ortis* 1802

Verga, "On the Lagoons", 1863

Giuseppe Berto, *L'anonimo veneziano* and film (dir. Enrico Maria Salerno, 1970)

Rossini's *Otello* 1816

Amilcare Ponchiello (libretto Arrigo Boito), *La gioconda* 1876

Marinetti, *Veneziella e Studentaccio*

Dario Argento, *Rosso profondo*

Goldoni, *La locandiera*

Massimo Cacciari: mayor, philosopher

Britten, *Death in Venice*

Offenbach, first of the *Tales of Hoffmann*

Byron, *Marino Faliero*; *The Two Foscari*; *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (Venetian Canto)

Hemingway, *Across the River and Into the Trees*

Three Coins in the Fountain (dir. Jean Negulesco)

Summertime (dir. David Lean)

Casino Royale (dir. Martin Campbell)

Calvino, *Città invisibili*

Tassini, *Curiosità veneziane*

James, *Italian Hours*

Potereoperaio and radical literature

Pizza e datteri (dir. Fariborz Kamkari)

Vettese, *Venezia vive*

Braudel, *Venezia*

Berto, *La cosa buffa*

Il terrorista (Dir. Gianfranco de Bosio)

Italiano per principianti (dir. Lone Scherfig)

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