

## **Dr. Mark Pietralunga**

*Courses 2007-2008*

### **Fall 2007**

- **ITW 4480/5485 - Twentieth Century Literature - Views from Abroad: America in Italian Literature and Film**

This course examines, through the selection of representative literary and critical texts as well as cinematic works, the image of America in Italian culture. From the perspective of the Italian intellectual/writer as traveler and observer, we will explore such topics as the relationship between the old and new world, America as myth, model and metaphor, stereotypes of America, America's image as both symbol of consumerism and social unrest, and the Italian American emigrant experience. The selected readings and films will enable us to analyze the diverse and changing perspectives of America over the course of the entire twentieth century (under Fascism, in the immediate post war period, during the economic 'boom' years, and in recent years when travel to the United States has become commonplace).

- **ITT 3501 - Modern Italian Culture - From the Unification to the Present**

This course will examine the cultural developments and socio-political changes in modern Italy: from the Risorgimento to the formation of a nation and the question of national identity; Fascism's influence on the national culture; the importance of the "language question" in Italian culture and society; World War II; the Italian miracle of the post-war period; the North/South divide; the Mafia; American influence on Italy; Catholicism and the role of the Church; the "Made in Italy" label in fashion and design; and the social phenomenon of immigration into Italy of people coming from Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia.

### **Spring 2008**

- **ITT 3520 - The Italian American Experience in Literature and Film**

In this course students will analyze the experiences of Italian Americans from a historical, cultural and literary perspective. The course is designed to assist students in exploring ways in which Italian and American cultures have combined to form a distinctive ethnic culture. Students will examine the literary and cinematic contributions that Italian Americans have made during the past century. The questions to be addressed in the course include: How and why the media has stereotyped the Italian Americans? What it means to be raised in a Little Italy? What it is like to be Italian in our society? How the gender dictates of an ancient heritage have shaped the roles of family members? How does America, the land of opportunity and of infinite possibility, unravel the family bond? How Italian Americans struggle between assimilation and the preservation of one's cultural birthright.

- **ITW 3101 - Survey of Italian Literature: 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

This course is intended to provide a chronological survey of Italian literature from the nineteenth century to the present. The course will explore the development of modern and contemporary Italy through the study of narrative, poetry, theatre, and cinema. Particular emphasis will be given to the literary and artistic life of the twentieth century. Lectures and class discussion will consider the works within a cultural, social, and historical context.