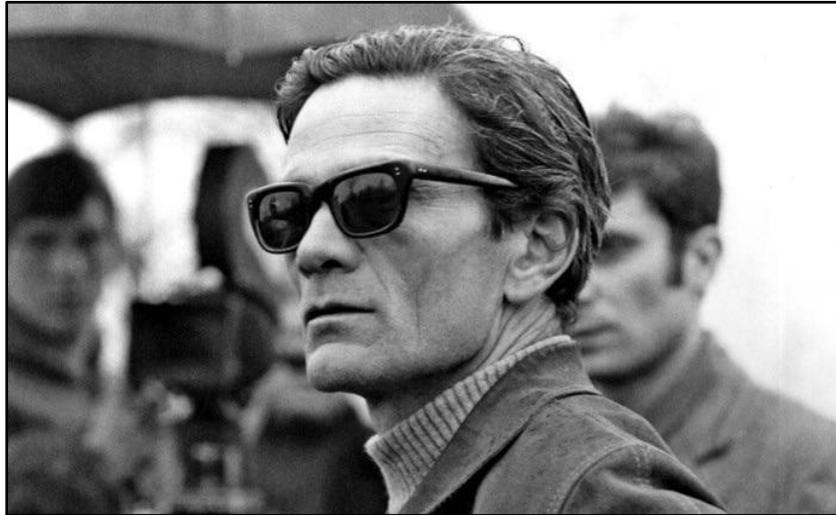


# - PIER PAOLO PASOLINI -

ITAL 28400-38400/CMST 23500-33500/GNSE 28600-38600/FNDL 28401



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WB 225 (Office hours: W 4.30-5.50)

The course will analyze the multi-faceted oeuvre of Pier Paolo Pasolini, one of the most controversial intellectuals of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will explore Pasolini's multifaceted artistic production (films, documentaries, poetry, novels, essays, plays, etc.) according to the most recent literary and cultural theories. Rather than a chronological order, our course is divided into thematic sections, each highlighting a different aspect of Pasolini's *oeuvre*.

## REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Please purchase through amazon kindle:

- Pier Paolo Pasolini, *The Street Kids* (trans. Ann Goldstein). Students registered for ITAL 28400 or 38400, must read the novel in Italian: Pier Paolo Pasolini, *Ragazzi di vita*.

All other titles we will read in class are available on our canvas site.

## PRELIMINARY READINGS:

Since our class will follow a thematic, and not chronological, order, please consult these succinct but clear introductions to Pasolini's life and the major themes of his *oeuvre*:

- Maurizio Viano, *A Certain Realism* (e-book Reg Library), "Essential Biography" (in *Preface*, pages xv-xix) and "Authorial Intertext" (pages 1-17).
- Armando Maggi, *The Resurrection of the Body*, pages 355-361 (e-book Reg Library).
- BIO IN ITALIAN: *Nota biografica*, in *Petrolino*, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Mondadori, pages 629-638 (pdf file on Canvas).

## WEEK 1: ON COLONIZATION, DECOLONIZATION, AND ORIENTALISM

### - Sept 27:

- Watch:

- Pasolini's short documentary *The Walls of Sa'ana* (*Le mura di Sa'ana*, part 1 and 2):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PlQ1H1w8n2k&t=69s>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjIFyKNVwn4>

- In class we will watch these short videos (from Canvas):

- "Sana'a World Heritage Series."
- "Sana'a Today."
- "Sana'a Tomorrow."

- Bring to class:

- "Benjamin.Arcades.selection" on Canvas (no need to read it before class).

### - Sept 29:

- Watch:

- Pasolini, *The Arabian Nights* (1974). [in *Trilogy of Life*, on reserve at the Reg Library]. Also available on VUDU.

- Read:

- "essay.Pasolini in Persia" (on Canvas).
- <https://www.criterion.com/current/posts/2552-arabian-nights-brave-old-world>
- "Pasolini.Rumble.chapter.2" (only pages 63-76, on Canvas).

⇒ Between Sept. 30 and Oct 3, we will schedule a get-together with pizza and a screening of Pasolini's *Notes on an African Orestes* (*Appunti su un'Orestiade Africana*) followed by informal reactions with Enrico Carnevali.

## WEEK 2: THE PRESENCE OF ANCIENT MYTH IN THE PRESENT

### - Oct 4:

- Watch:

- Pasolini, *Notes on an African Orestes* (*Appunti su un'Orestiade Africana*).

- Read:

- "To Death: A Fragment" (*Un frammento alla morte*), in *The Selected Poetry of Pier Paolo Pasolini* (2014), e-book Reg Lib, pages 294-298. This poem comes from the collection *La religione del mio tempo/The Religion of My Time*, 1961).
- Daniel Humphrey, *Archaic Modernism: Queer Poetics in the Cinema of Pier Paolo Pasolini* (on Canvas, "Archaic.Modernism.essay").
- Tom Hawkins, "Orestes on Trial in Africa" (on Canvas, "essay.Pasolini.Orestes").

- Bring to class:

- "Benjamin.Arcades.selection" on Canvas file (no need to read it before class).

### - Oct 6:

- Watch:

- Pasolini, *Oedipus Rex* (1967). Currently available on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K\\_ojoFsO5iM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_ojoFsO5iM), and on reserve at Reg Lib.

- Read:

- Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, Oxford University Press (e-book Reg Lib) PA4414.O7 B44 1988eb. PLEASE READ THIS VERSION ONLY.
- "Pasolini.Oedipus.3" (on Canvas).
- "Memorie" (*Memories*) and "Supplica a mia madre" (*Plea to My Mother*) in *The Selected Poetry of Pier Paolo Pasolini* (2014), (e-book Reg Lib.), pages 104-111 and 314-316 (from collection *L'usignolo della chiesa cattolica/The Nightingale of the Catholic Church*, 1958; 1958; *Poesie in forma di rosa/Poems in the shape of a rose*, 1964).

- “Pasolini.essay.self-portrait” on Canvas.

⇒ Between Oct 7 and Oct 10, there will be a get-together with pizza and a screening of the documentary *Profezia. L’Africa di Pasolini (Prophecy: Pasolini’s Africa)* followed by informal reactions with Enrico Carnevali.

### WEEK 3: THE RENEWAL OF MYTH: MARGINALIZATION AND SEX

#### - Oct 11:

- Watch:

- Pasolini, *La ricotta* (episode in RO.GO.PAG) available on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ww3\\_ly8r02M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ww3_ly8r02M)  
And on <https://www.criterionchannel.com/>

- Read:

- Poem “25 Aprile 1962” (from *Poesie in forma di rosa*) in *The Selected Poetry of P. P. Pasolini*, pages 308-312.
- Pasolini’s essays on cinema from his volume *Heretical Empiricism (Empirismo eretico)* on Canvas (“Pasolini.heretical”): “Cinema of Poetry,” pages 165-186.

#### - Oct 13:

- Watch:

- Pasolini, *Teorema* (1967):  
available on Amazon:  
[https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B0832SM565/ref=atv\\_dl\\_rdr?tag=justus1ktp-20](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B0832SM565/ref=atv_dl_rdr?tag=justus1ktp-20)  
On <https://www.criterionchannel.com/>  
Also on reserve at Reg Lib.

- Read:

- Pasolini, *Theorem (Teorema)*, pages 3-28 (on Canvas)/ Italian version available at Reg Lib PQ4835.A76A15 1998
- Pasolini.essay.Theorem.” [only students who don’t know Italian]
- “Pasolini.saggio.Teorema.” [only students in Italian Studies]

⇒ Between Oct 14 and Oct 17 there will be a get-together with pizza and a screening of Pasolini's documentary *Sopralluoghi in Palestina (Location Hunting in Palestine)* followed by informal reactions with Enrico Carnevali.

## WEEK 4: SEX AND THE SACRED

### - Oct 18:

- In this class we will continue our analysis of the films "La ricotta" and "Theorem" with the help of selected readings. Please read:

- Pasolini, *The Dream of the Centaur* (on Canvas)
- Ernesto De Martino's *Magic: A Theory From the South*, chapters 8 and 9 (on Canvas)
- Poems: "La strada delle puttane" (The Whores' Road) and "Versi del testamento," *Selected Poetry of P. P. Pasolini* (from collection *Trasumanar e organizzar/ Transhumanize and Organize* (1971), on Canvas, pages 384-388)
- "Pasolini.Ricotta.essay" (on Canvas).

### - Oct 20:

- Watch:

- Pasolini, *The Gospel According to Matthew (Il vangelo secondo Matteo)* DVD (with English subtitles) available at Regenstein Lib. Also on Amazon and on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwfoyyWrBBA>
- Pasolini's interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IA1bS1MRzw>.

- Read:

- "Pasolini.essay.Steimatsky"

- In class we will watch selections from the following film (no need to watch them before the class): Gibson, *The Passion of the Christ*.

## WEEK 5: THE SACRED AND THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

### - Oct 25: MIDTERM ASSIGNED

- Watch:

- Pasolini, *Accattone*. Available at <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x28nqfl>

- Interview with Pasolini: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rc4AhxIvaU0>
- OPTIONAL: *Whoever Says the Truth Shall Die* (1981, Documentary on Pasolini): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mwKpi2psS4>

- Read:

- “Stupendous.miserable” (on Pasolini’s representation of Rome, on Canvas).
- “My Cinema~ Pasolini” (PDF pages 16-26, on Canvas).

- Oct 27:

- Read:

- First 4 chapters of Pasolini’s *Ragazzi di vita* (*The Street Kids*): e-book on Amazon; Italian version at Reg Lib.).

- In class we will watch selected scenes from the following films:

- Pasolini, *Mamma Roma*.
- Vittorio De Sica, *Ladri di biciclette*.

## WEEK 6: FROM REVOLUTION TO DECADENCE

- Nov 1:

- Read:

- Pasolini, *Ragazzi di vita* (*The Street Kids*), chapters 5-8.
- Pasolini’s essay on Italian language from his volume *Heretical Empiricism* (*Empirismo eretico*) on Canvas (“Pasolini.heretical”): “New Linguistic Questions;” “Appendix;” pages 3-26.

- Watch:

- Pasolini, *La forma della città* (*The Shape of the City*): <https://vimeo.com/99520799>

- Nov 3:

- Read:

- Pasolini, *Petrolio*, “Project Note,” Fragments 1 through 3c, 6 quater, 7, 8, 55, 70 through 74 (English translation on Canvas/ Italian version at Reg Lib.).

- Please read this NYT article:  
<https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/books/97/03/23/reviews/970323.23eberstt.html>  
Bear in mind that *Ragazzi di vita* came out in 1955, whereas *Petrolino* is incomplete and was published posthumously in 1992.

⇒ Between Nov 4 and Nov 7 there will be a get-together with pizza and a screening of Pasolini's documentary *Comizi d'amore (Love Meetings)* followed by informal reactions with Enrico Carnevali.

## WEEK 7: THE INTELLECTUAL AGAINST HIS AUDIENCE

- Nov 8:

- Read:

- Pasolini, *Manifesto for a New Theater* (on Canvas). Also available in Italian on Canvas.
- Pasolini, *Orgy* (Prologue and Episodes 1, 2 and 3, on Canvas/ Italian version in *Tutto in teatro* at Reg Lib).

- Nov 10:

- Watch:

- Abel Ferrara, *Pasolini* (2019, on Amazon).

- Read:

- Maggi, *The Resurrection of the Body*, pages 107-156 (e-book Reg Lib.).

⇒ Between Nov 11 and Nov 14, there will be a get-together with pizza and a screening of *Salò and the 120 Days of Sodom* followed by informal reactions with Enrico Carnevali.

## WEEK 8: THE ENDING, AND BACK TO THE BEGINNING

### - Nov 15:

#### - Watch:

- Pasolini's interview on Salò: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kez7fugpOU>.

#### - Read:

- Franco Berardi, *After the Future*, (selection on Canvas, "Pasolini.essay.Berardi").
- Pierre Klossowski, *Sade My Neighbor* (selection on Canvas, "Pasolini.essay.Sade").
- Armando Maggi, "To Give Birth in Salò and Sade's The 120 Days of Sodom" in *The Resurrection of the Body*, pages 256-338 (e-book Reg Lib.).
- Herbert Marcuse, "Repressive Tolerance" in *A Critique of Pure Tolerance* (on Canvas, "Marcuse.Tolerance."

### - Nov 17:

#### - Read:

- "Uno dei tanti epiloghi" (*One of Many Epilogues*), "Canto Civile" (*Civic Song*) from collection *Trasumanar e organizzar/ Transhumanize and Organize* (1971) in *The Selected Poetry of P.P.Pasolini* (e-book Reg. Lib.), ges 380-384.
- The entire selection from *La meglio gioventù* (*The Best of Youth*, 1954), in *The Selected Poetry of P.P.Pasolini*, pages 61-81.
- "Il pianto della scavatrice" (*The Cry of the Excavator*) from *Le ceneri di Gramsci* (*Gramsci's Ashes*, 1957) in *The Selected Poetry of P.P.Pasolini*, pages 188-217.

## WEEK 9: NO CLASSES, THANKSGIVING BREAK

## WEEK 10: PASOLINI TODAY

### - Nov 29:

- Students' Presentations.

### - Dec 1:

- Students' Presentations.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING COMPONENTS:

### Grading:

Please note: these percentages are intended as guidelines rather than rigid multipliers:

- Attendance: 5% (includes, as requirements, the completion of the initial student questionnaire & the regular checking of email messages). Class participation is a fundamental part of our class. TEXTING AND THE USE OF CELL PHONES IN CLASS ARE ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED.
- Weekly/Class Discussion Expert: 20%.
- Weekly Discussion Participation: 35%. The TA will take note of which students speak up in class, asking questions or supplying comments.
- Final research paper or alternate final project: 40%. See below for more information.

### Weekly Discussion Leadership and Participation:

The weekly discussion leadership and participation requirement comprises both a written and a spoken component. Once or twice during the semester, each of you will assume the role of "expert" for a given class. This entails not only leading class discussion but also composing 3 questions to be sent in advance (by 5:00 PM on Friday for our Monday meeting, or by 5:00 PM on Tuesday for our Wednesday) to the professor and the TA who will evaluate them before sharing them with the rest of the class.

### Mid-term Assignment and Final Research Paper:

Please type, double-space, and staple your essays. Use 1-inch margins, font Times 12. On the top of the first page, include your name, and the date. Most importantly, turn your essays in on the day they are due, *in class*.

Students who major or minor in Italian must write their midterm and final project in Italian.

The midterm will be a 7-page take-home exam.

The final project for graduate students will be a 15-20/page essay. Undergraduate students will write a 10-page essay. However, undergraduate students are encouraged to discuss alternative forms of final projects with the instructors.

### Alternate Final Project:

The deadline for the final project will be discussed in class. You may either write a research paper or you may do a self-designed creative project, which should be of effort roughly equivalent to writing a fifteen-page research paper. The creative project must be related to the Pasolini's universe we explored throughout the course. Final projects may be done either individually or in collaboration with our students. You may, for example:

- Translate a short text (prose or poetry) from Italian into English.
- Create a video essay on Vimeo.
- Update a Wikipedia page related to Pasolini.
- Put into music a poem by Pasolini.
- Design a website on Pasolini.
- Etc.

If you choose to do a creative project, you must also write a five-page (double-spaced) paper explaining the rationale behind your project. All final project ideas must be submitted to the instructor and TA by Week 8 for approval.

**Presentations of Essays and Final Projects:**

All students will give a presentation during the two final weeks of our course.

**Attendance Policy:**

Your attendance and punctuality are essential.

**Academic Honesty:**

To practice academic integrity one must not only do one's own work, but also clearly acknowledge one's indebtedness to the words *and ideas* of others. Students are always responsible for properly acknowledging all outside sources, including Cliff Notes and those sources found in cyberspace. For help recognizing plagiarism and developing strategies to avoid it, see the library's citation guide (<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/using/instruct/citation.html>) and/or see me to discuss. Plagiarism -- even when committed unwittingly -- is a serious infraction, one that is punishable under the University's disciplinary system.