CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
University Honors Program
One University Drive
Orange, CA  92866

COURSE SYLLABUS

HON 371  Spring 2014
The World of Fellini’s Cinema

Catalog Description:

Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor. This course investigates the work of the Italian filmmaker Federico Fellini, including both the aesthetic innovations of his films and the cultural and philosophic context surrounding them. (Offered as needed.) 3 credits.

Course Learning Outcomes:
Upon completing this course students will be able to:

- discuss and research the various influences on and roots of Fellini’s films and creativity (including, but not limited to, Italian folklore and popular culture, psychoanalysis, the occult, fascism, neorealism, existentialism, Catholicism, literary and visual sources);
- analyze Fellini’s films as well as other primary texts such as screenplays and diaries identifying aesthetic innovations as well as specific cultural, artistic, and philosophic dynamics at play;
- present and discuss arguments, creative work, and complex issues in writing and public speaking;
- explore complex issues related to spirituality, creativity, and identity through journaling and class discussion;
- and collaborate with classmates in conceptualizing, planning, and creating a filmic product relating to their overarching understanding of Fellini’s work.

Honors Program Learning Outcomes:
Upon completing a course in the University Honors Program students will have:

a. Obtained a starting point for integrative exploration of the development of cultures and intellectual achievements through a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives;

b. Sharpened their ability to critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of knowledge through the study of primary texts and through engagement in active learning with fellow students, faculty, and texts (broadly understood);

c. Understood how to apply more integrative and interdisciplinary forms of understanding in the advancement of knowledge and in addressing complex challenges shaping the world;
d. Developed effective communication skills, specifically in the areas of written and oral exposition and analysis.

Content:

- Evolution of Fellini’s cinematic career.
- Artistic influences on Fellini’s films (street art, comics, literature, visual arts, and popular cinema).
- Philosophic influences on Fellini’s films (psychoanalysis, existentialism, Catholicism, and the occult).
- Relationship of Fellini’s films to neorealism.
- The philosophic and aesthetic ramifications of Fellini’s creative practices (the dream book, collaboration, and improvisation).
- Commentary and representation of Italian identity and social changes in modern Italy as represented in Fellini’s films (fascism, Hollywood by the Tiber, paparazzi, anthropological transformations after the Boom, terrorism, Berlusconi’s TV, advertisement culture, and the end of cinema).
- The myth of the woman in Fellini’s films (the Great Mediterranean Mother, feminist perspectives, and psychoanalysis).

Current Required Texts:

- A number of critical essays exemplifying various theoretical and ideological perspectives.
- Short stories, poems, correspondence, and testimonies by Fellini and his collaborators.
- The most significant of the full-feature and short films directed by Fellini.

Instructional strategies:

- The lessons will build on the student’s own understanding of assigned readings and screenings, on their research of and creative engagement with the subject matter, and present contextual background and interpretative models through interactive and multi-media lectures.

Methods of Evaluation:

*There are three major assignments assigned by the instructor.*

1. The journal: a vehicle for critical reflection and in-depth thinking on the films’ screened and readings. The journal is also a tool for clarifying and solidifying the students’ spiritual and intellectual evolution as they confront deeper issues stimulated by Fellini’s films and creativity.

2. The research paper. This assignment is preceded by a number of quick idea papers aiming to brainstorm and select an argumentative and research direction. Students design
and compose a thesis-driven research paper focusing on a specific aspect of Fellini’s cinema, providing textual evidence, contextual information, and interpretative background. The essay is composed in drafts and in consultation with the professor, though it is also presented and discussed with the class before its final version.

3. Collaborative Scholarly/Creative Project. Students will engage in a collaborative research project on the making of a scene of Fellini’s unrealized film project, *The Voyage of G. Mastorna*. The project is organized in various phases and is evaluated using points given both individually and collectively.

**Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:**
The course syllabus should include the following statement:
Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

**Students with Disabilities Policy:**
The course syllabus should include the following statement:
In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

**Equity and Diversity:**
Chapman University is committed to ensuring equality and valuing diversity. Students and professors are reminded to show respect at all times as outlined in Chapman’s Harassment and Discrimination Policy: [http://tinyurl.com/CUHarassment-Discrimination](http://tinyurl.com/CUHarassment-Discrimination). Any violations of this policy should be discussed with the professor, the Dean of Students and/or otherwise reported in accordance with this policy.

*Prepared by: Federico Pacchioni, Fall 2013*

*Last revised: Federico Pacchioni, Fall 2013*