Fall 2012
Italian 340: Literature from Italian Unification to Fascism
Filmmaking by the Book:
Italian Cinema and Literary Adaptation

Professor: Margaret (Tita) Rosenthal mrosenth.usc.edu

COURSE OVERVIEW
TAUGHT IN ENGLISH
This interdisciplinary course will present fiction by 19th and 20th century authors against a historical, social and political background that stretches from the Unification of Italy to Fascism and World War II. We will examine how major Italian novels were adapted into films by several postwar Italian filmmakers--Visconti, De Sica, Bertolucci, and Amelio--and what were the factors that determined that transformation. These filmmakers define their own authorial task in relation to their literary precursors (Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, Alberto Moravia, Carlo Levi, Giorgio Bassani, and Leonardo Sciascia). We will consider how directors employ literary texts to resolve specific artistic problems within their own works.

Required Books:
Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, The Leopard (1958)
Alberto Moravia, The Conformist (1951)
Carlo Levi, Christ Stopped at Eboli (1945)
Giorgio Bassani, The Garden of the Finzi-Continis (1962)
Leonardo Sciascia, Open Doors (1987)