Course Professor: Margaret (Tita) Rosenthal

ITALIAN 340 MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT BY COMPARATIVE LITERATURE MAJORS/MINORS
(Please speak with the Chair of Comparative Literature, Pani Norindr norindr@usc.edu).

COURSE OVERVIEW:

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—Taviani, 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 (Luigi Pirandello, 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:
- Luigi Pirandello: Novelle per un anno (1936)
- 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)