

# Venice and Modernity: Screening Venice

Professor Elizabeth Leake

Summer 2016

**Course description:** This class will explore the city of Venice as it appears on screen and in real life. We'll watch films from such directors as Woody Allen, Federico Fellini, Andrea Segre, Luchino Visconti, and Silvio Soldini, then explore the city ourselves to experience first-hand its importance as the setting for so many cinematic masterpieces. We will also examine representations of Venice in order to identify forms of aesthetic modernism within the specifically Venetian context. How do these modernist narrations engage with their location—imagined or otherwise—in Venice and its environs? Is there such a thing as Venetian regional modernism, and what are its parameters? What are their relations to modernism's broader national iteration? What about Venice in Vegas?

**Requirements:** active participation in all class discussions; design and lead one field trip based on one of our texts; final in-class exam. Discussions in English, readings in English or Italian.

## **Week 1**

15 June Introduction to course

17 June Adaptation theories; Calvino; partial screening and discussion of Woody Allen, *Everyone Says I Love You* 1996

## **Week 2**

22 June Mann, Thomas, *Death in Venice* 1912

24 June Screening and discussion of Luchino Visconti, *Morte a Venezia* 1971

## **Week 3**

29 June Camillo Boito, *Senso* 1883

1 July Screening and discussion of Luchino Visconti, *Senso* 1954

## **Week 4**

6 July Reflections: how does Venice look so far?

8 July Giuseppe Berto, *L'anonimo veneziano* and film (dir. Enrico Maria Salerno, 1970)

## **Week 5**

13 July Palazzeschi, *Il doge*; Guest lecture, Prof. Simone Magherini, "Aldo Palazzeschi e Venezia"

15 July Screening and discussion of Silvio Soldini, *Pane e tulipani* 2000

## **Week 6**

20 July Andrea Segre, *Mi chiamo Li* 2011

22 July Final exam; Conclusions

**Additional texts and topics for presentations:**

*Venice, the Moon, and You* 1958 (dir. Dino Risi)

Verga, "On the Lagoons", 1863

Rossini's *Otello* 1816

Amilcare Ponchiello (libretto Arrigo Boito), *La gioconda* 1876

Marinetti, *Veneziella e Studentaccio*

Dario Argento, *Rosso profondo*

Goldoni, *La locandiera*

Massimo Cacciari: mayor, philosopher

Britten, *Death in Venice*

Offenbach, first of the *Tales of Hoffmann*

Byron, *Marino Faliero*; *The Two Foscari*; *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (Venetian Canto)

Hemingway, *Across the River and Into the Trees*

*Three Coins in the Fountain* (dir. Jean Negulesco)

*Summertime* (dir. David Lean)

*Casino Royale* (dir. Martin Campbell)

Calvino, *Città invisibili*

Tassini, *Curiosità veneziane*

James, *Italian Hours*

*Potere operaio* and radical literature