TERM: **Fall 2026**

COURSE TITLE: **Contemporary Italian Culture**

COURSE NUMBER: **ITAL 3250.01 CRN 41586**
FNLT 3250 (cross-list) CRN 41606

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: **Monday 4.30 pm- 7.50 pm**

INSTRUCTOR: **Prof. Aine O'Healy**

CORE: **Interdisciplinary Connections**

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course will provide an examination of the diverse forms of contemporary cultural expression in Italy, including film & media, literature, popular music, and political critique. Focusing on cultural production disseminated since the end of the 20th century, the course will explore how echoes of the major transformations that have occurred in Italy resonate at all levels of these cultural phenomena. The course is taught in English. Students taking the course for the Italian Minor or Modern Languages Major must write a number of assignments in Italian. All other students are encouraged to take the course as FNLT 3998.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete the required work achieve a basic understanding of contemporary Italian culture and society through the close study of selected cultural artifacts. They sharpen their critical skills by engaging productively in interpretive processes. They achieve the ability to make formal oral presentations in a clear and organized manner, demonstrating a command of language at the appropriate level.

PREREQUISITES

ITAL 2103 or 2104 for those taking the Italian minor. No prerequisites for others.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All texts are provided by the instructor and made available on Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Extensive class participation, essays, one exam, formal oral presentation, final paper.

TERM: **Fall 2026**

COURSE TITLE: **Comparative Cultures: Screening Migration in Contemporary Europe**

COURSE NUMBER: **FNLT 4200 (cross-listed with FTVS)** **CRN 41572**

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: **Wed. 16:30 – 19:50**

INSTRUCTOR: **Prof. Áine O'Healy**

CORE AREA: **INTEGRATIONS: Interdisciplinary Connections**

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course provides interdisciplinary and comparative approaches to the audiovisual construction of contemporary migrations, with particular focus on recent films from Europe. The films prompt us to explore how long-held notions of European identity and culture are being challenged and reassessed through contemporary film and media as well as through debates triggered by these audiovisual representations. We focus on a selection films loosely classified as "border films," "transnational films," or "migration films," made in a variety of European countries or in zones of international transit. The films include dramatic features, comedies, and documentaries which tell stories of endangerment, border-crossing, uprooting and resettlement. Along with the films, a selection of texts by film scholars, cultural theorists, and other commentators will enable us to reflect on the ways in which European cultures are currently being challenged and transformed by waves of emigration and immigration.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete the coursework will be able to

1. Examine films about migration from the perspective of more than one disciplinary framework.
2. Integrate knowledge across contexts and disciplines.
3. Explore the construction of gender, race, and class in different national cultures.
4. Write critically about the formal characteristics of the films presented, using appropriate categories and vocabulary.
5. Deliver an effective oral analysis of an audiovisual excerpt.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Regular reading assignments provided on Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Weekly reading assignments; Short essays; A midterm exam; One formal presentation; One final paper