

Weekly Plan Examples for Online Learning

About This Document:

This document contains model unit materials from online courses and course types which link to our [Start Here](#) document. The unit formats are examples of the types of information your [Course Plan Template](#) and [Live Syllabus](#) will contain.

Examples

[Example 1: Film Theory](#)

[Example 2: Creative Writing](#)

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Example 1: Film Theory

(14-Week Undergraduate course)

Week 4

Topic

Italian Neorealism



Rome, Open City. Directed by Roberto Rossellini, Minerva Film, 27 Sept. 1945.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this week students will be able to ...

1. Define Italian Neorealism and its core characteristics
2. Distinguish characteristics in Italian Neorealism from conventions found in Hollywood cinema.

3. Explain the historical and societal contexts within which the Italian Neorealism style emerged.
4. Identify films created in the vein of Italian Neorealism.
5. Identify some of the major contributing filmmakers in the Italian Neorealism style.

Instructional Materials

Required

- Italian Neorealism (PowerPoint Presentation)
 - PPTX or PDF file of presentation
 - **Citation:** Melleby Welch, Elizabeth. "Italian Neorealism." CINE UT 55. NYU. Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Italian Neorealism (Web Article)
 - Link to this Article
 - **Citation:** "Italian Neorealism." CineCollage, <http://cinecollage.net/neorealism.html>. Accessed 14 April 2022.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- The Roots of Neorealism (Web Article)
 - Link to this Article
 - **Citation:** Iannone, Pasquale. "Deep Focus: The Roots of Neorealism." BFI, <https://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine/features/deep-focus/roots-neorealism>. Accessed 14 April 2022.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 3, 5
- Historical Origins of Italian Neorealism (Web Article)
 - Link to this Article
 - **Citation:** Neorealism. "Historical Origins of Italian Neorealism." Film Reference, <http://www.filmreference.com/encyclopedia/Independent-Film-Road-Movies/Neorealism-HISTORICAL-ORIGINS-OF-ITALIAN-NEOREALISM.html>. Accessed 14 April 2022.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 3, 4, 5

Supplemental

- Movie Movements that Defined Cinema: Italian Neorealism (Web Article)
 - Link to this Article

- **Citation:** Italian Neorealism. EmpireOnline, <https://www.empireonline.com/movies/features/italian-neorealism-movie-era/>. Accessed 14 April 2022.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2, 5
- Video Essay: How Italian Neorealism Brought the Grit of the Streets to the Big Screen (YouTube Video)
 - Link to this Video
 - **Citation:** No Film School. "Video Essay: How Italian Neorealism Brought the Grit of the Streets to the Big Screen." *YouTube*, 25 Oct. 2016, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_uLv6Wt2io
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 2, 3
- Italian Neorealism Quizlet (Digital Flashcard Set)
 - Link to this Learning Activity
 - **Citation:** Quizlet. "Italian Neorealism (1942-1951)." <https://quizlet.com/83478497/italian-neorealism-1942-1951-flash-cards/>
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 2, 4, 5

Learning Exercises & Assignments

- Virtual Office Hours (Synchronous)
 - **Tool:** Zoom
 - **Day & Time:** Tuesdays and Fridays from 3:00PM EST to 4:30PM EST or by appointment
- Live Class Session (Synchronous)
 - **Tool:** Zoom
 - **Day & Time:** Wednesday of Week 4 from 2:00PM EST to 3:00PM EST
 - **Student Directions:** Click on the Zoom tab in the navigation menu in our Brightspace course site, and locate the meeting labeled "Week 4" at the time of the class. Join this meeting. **Please be sure to have reviewed the "Italian Neorealism" PowerPoint prior to class.** All live class sessions will be recorded and accessible to students at any point during the course.
 - **Grade:** 100 points
 - **Grading Note:** Students are **REQUIRED** to attend these live class sessions. Both attending and actively engaging during these live class sessions are factored into student "Attendance" grade (10% overall). Students are allowed 2 "absences" from class before their grade begins to be negatively impacted.

- **Note for students unable to attend live:** If a student knows they will be unable to “attend” class live, they must reach out to the instructor in advance (3+ days). In order to earn credit toward their attendance, students will be required to view the live class recording, and post a 150+ word response regarding the week’s live class session on the corresponding discussion topic.
- **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Discussion (Asynchronous)
 - **Tool:** Discussions (Brightspace)
 - **Due Dates:** Initial comment related to the prompt in the directions is due by Monday of Week 4 at 11:59PM EST. Replies to at least 2 peers’ are due by Wednesday of Week 4 at 11:59PM EST.
 - **Directions:** Go to Discussions → Week 4 Discussion → “Start a New Thread” button. Please title your initial topic posts with LASTNAME FIRSTNAME DISCUSSION NUMBER. For example, you might see SMITH JANE 4.1.
 - Then comment on the work of at least two of your peers by Wednesday at 11:59PM EST. Your replies to your peers should build upon what has already been stated (“Yes, I agree with you” or “Great post!” replies will not receive credit) These replies should be at least 2-3 sentences in length.
 - **Prompt:** Discuss the significance of three of the defining characteristics of Italian Neorealism:
 - Using real sets
 - Using non-professional actors
 - Conveying stories that depict real life in Italy at the time
 - **Grade:** 100 Points (70 for initial response, 30 for replies)
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2
- Discussion (Asynchronous)
 - **Tool:** Annotate (NYU Stream)
 - **Due Dates:** Initial comment related to the prompt in the directions is due by Thursday of Week 4 at 11:59PM EST. Replies to at least 3 peers’ are due by Friday of Week 4 at 11:59PM EST.
 - **Directions:** Go to our Brightspace course → Content → Week 4 → Videos to find [the video](#) called “Italian Neorealism Discussion.” Review the video at least once and then consider the following prompt:

- How does the Italian Neorealism style compare to that of classic Hollywood cinema? How does this difference in style impact viewer perception of the characters, setting, and tone in the clip?
 - Your initial comment should be at least 150 words and address the prompt above.
 - Your 3+ replies to your peers should build upon what has already been stated (“Yes, I agree with you” or “Great post!” replies will not receive credit) These replies should be at least 2-3 sentences in length.
- **Grade:** 100 Points (70 for initial response, 30 for replies)
- **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2
- Knowledge Check
 - **Tool:** Quizzes (Brightspace)
 - **Due:** Sunday of Week 4 by 11:59PM EST
 - **Directions:** Go to our Brightspace course → Quizzes → “Italian Neorealism Knowledge Check.” This is a 15-question, multiple-choice / true-false, and fill-in-the-blank quiz. There is a 15-minute time limit, and you have **unlimited** attempts on this quiz. Be sure to go back and review the instructional materials if you answer any questions incorrectly, and retake the knowledge check to improve your score.
 - **Grade:** 100 Points
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Podcast Creation
 - **Tool:** NYU Stream & Assignments (Brightspace)
 - **Due:** Sunday of Week 4 by 11:59PM EST
 - **Directions:** For this week’s assignment, you will be recording a 4-5 minute podcast on any film from the Italian Neorealism style that you would like. In your podcast, you will need to discuss the following:
 - Your film’s title and name of its director
 - The general plot of the film
 - The characteristics of Italian Neorealism within this film
 - An analysis of both the historical and societal influences that you can derive based on the story’s plot, theme, and aesthetic style.
 - **Be sure to write this podcast out and rehearse it a couple of times before you record it.** When you convey your findings, be as descriptive as possible. While film is both a visual and auditory medium, podcasts are

exclusively auditory. Once ready, follow the provided guide on NYU Stream to guide you in navigating the interface of the “Express Capture” tool. Once recorded, you will need to submit the link to your podcast, **in addition to a works cited page**, for your instructor to review in the Brightspace Assignments tool. Be sure to use the MLA citation style in formatting your works cited page.

- Note: You do not need to watch your selected film in its entirety to be successful in this assignment. There is a wealth of information out there regarding the most prominent films in the Italian Neorealism style. Leverage this information and utilize as many sources as necessary to find the answers that you need to cover in this podcast.
- **Grade:** 100 points
- **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Example 2: Creative Writing

(8-Week Undergraduate, **Skills/Process focused** course)

Week 3

Topic

World Building

Learning Goals

At the end of this week students will be able to ...

1. Discuss the importance of world building within the context of creative writing
2. Author original work consisting of character, tone, and world building components.
3. Critique examples of world building in existing creative works.
4. Defend and explain the choices made regarding character, tone, and world building in original work.

Instructional Materials

Required

- Pages 140-208 of *This is How You Lose the Time War* (Book)
 - Finish reading this book in either the physical or eBook version
 - **Citation:** El-Mohtar, Amal and Max Gladstone. *This is How You Lose the Time War*. New York City, Saga Press, 2019.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 3
- These 5 Weird World Building Questions Will Make Your Book 10X Better (Web Article)
 - Link to this Article
 - **Citation:** Reudell, Ryan. "These 5 Weird World Building Questions Will Make Your Book 10x Better." Medium, The Writing Cooperative, 11 Dec. 2017, writingcooperative.com/these-5-weird-world-building-questions-will-make-your-book-10x-better-d2f2ce2254ee.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 3

Learning Exercises & Assignments

- Virtual Office Hours
 - **Tool:** Zoom
 - **Day & Time:** By appointment only
- Discussion (Asynchronous)
 - **Tool:** Discussions (Brightspace)
 - **Due Dates:** Initial post related to the prompt in the directions is due by Thursday of Week 3 at 11:59PM EST. Replies to at least 3 peers' are due by Sunday of Week 3 at 11:59PM EST.
 - **Directions:** Listen to Season 2, "Museum Audio Tours," Episode 5 of the *Within the Wires* podcast (available free wherever you get your podcasts). Transcripts for this podcast are also readily available. This episode is ~24 minutes in length. Then, go to our Brightspace course → Discussions → Week 3 Discussions → Click "Start a New Thread" and write an initial post of at least 300 words that addresses the following items.

- How have creators effectively or ineffectively built the world depicted in this episode of *Within the Wires*? Be sure to use specific examples from the podcast to support your position.
 - How does the world building impact your interpretation and perception of the story that is being told?
 - Your 3+ replies to your peers should build upon what has already been stated (“Yes, I agree with you” or “Great post!” replies will not receive credit) These replies should be at least 150 words in length.
 - **Grade:** 100 Points (70 for initial response, 30 for replies)
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 3
- Craft Analysis (Asynchronous)
 - **Tool:** Assignments
 - **Due Date:** Sunday of Week 3 by 11:59PM EST
 - **Directions:** Write a 3 to 4 page paper (Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced) analyzing the construction of the world depicted in *This is How You Lose the Time War*. Be sure to address the following in your craft analysis:
 - The distinction between Blue’s world and Red’s world
 - The use of time travel to build and sustain the world
 - Your personal analysis as to whether or not the world building was effective (Was it? How so? Was it confusing? Why so? Which scenes worked well? Which ones did not?)
 - **Grade:** 100 Points
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 3
- Short Story 3 & Peer Critiques (Asynchronous)
 - **Tool:** Perusall (Brightspace) & Assignments (Brightspace)
 - **Due Date:** Short story due by Wednesday of Week 3 by 11:59PM EST. 2 peer critiques are due by Friday of Week 3 by 11:59PM EST. 2 critique defenses are due by Sunday of Week 3 by 11:59PM EST
 - **Directions:** Write a 7 to 10 page short story (Times New Roman, size 12 font, double-spaced) in your genre of choice. This short story should demonstrate application of **character building**, **tone setting**, and **world building** techniques and approaches that have been covered so far in this course. Be sure that you are making deliberate choices. Submit your short story to the appropriate assignment in the Brightspace Assignments tool. Then, submit your short story to the Perusall link in Week 3 for peer

review. You will need to be able to justify your creative decisions during the peer critique process. **Please keep in mind that this assignment serves as your midterm for this course.**

- Once you submit your short story, you will need to provide constructive critiques (300 to 400 words) to two of your peers (these pairings will be pre-assigned). These critiques should focus on **character building**, **tone setting**, and **world building**. Each of these peers will be providing you with constructive critiques of your work. In response to each of these critiques you must respond with a rationale for the decisions that you made during your writing process. You are more than welcome to have more than just the single back-and-forth exchange with each of these two peers, but it is not required.
- **Grade:** 100 Points
- **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2, 3, 4

Example 3: Environmental Studies

(14-Week Undergraduate, **Experiential / Project-Based Learning focused** course)

Week 2

Topic

Introduction & Overview of the Course Sustainability Project

Learning Objectives

At the end of this week students will be able to...

1. Explain the overall parameters of the course-long sustainability project
2. Develop a personal project schedule that aligns with the milestone dates for each deliverable of the course-long sustainability project.
3. Conduct preliminary research to identify their topic/focus for the course-long sustainability project.

Instructional Materials

Required

- Sustainability Project Presentation (PowerPoint)
 - PPTX or PDF file of presentation
 - **Citation:** Melleby Welch, Elizabeth. "Sustainability Project." ENVST-UA 244. NYU. Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2, 3
- Sustainability Project Rubric (Word Document/Google Doc)
 - DOCX or PDF file
 - **Citation:** Melleby Welch, Elizabeth. "Sustainability Project Rubric." ENVST-UA 244. NYU. Microsoft Word Document.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1
- Sustainability Project Milestones (Word Document/Google Doc)
 - DOCX or PDF file
 - **Citation:** Melleby Welch, Elizabeth. "Sustainability Project Milestones." ENVST-UA 244. NYU. Microsoft Word Document.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2
- What is Sustainability and Why Is it Important? (Web Article)
 - Link to this Article
 - **Citation:** Mason, M. (n.d.). What is Sustainability and Why is it Important? Retrieved from <https://www.environmentalscience.org/sustainability>

Learning Exercises & Assignments

- Virtual Office Hours (Synchronous)
 - **Tool:** Zoom
 - **Day & Time:** Mondays and Thursdays from 6:00PM EST to 7:00PM EST or by appointment
- Discussion (Asynchronous)
 - **Tool:** Discussions (Brightspace)
 - **Due Dates:** Initial post related to the prompt in the directions is due by Thursday of Week 2 at 11:59PM EST. Replies to at least 2 peers are due by Sunday of Week 2 at 11:59PM EST.
 - **Directions:** Navigate to the NYU Division of Libraries website. Conduct a database search to locate articles that relate to the topic(s) you are

considering for your sustainability project. Find 3 to 4 articles that seem interesting. Go to our Brightspace course → Discussions → Week 2 Discussion → Click Start a New Thread and provide the link to the article that interests you the most and address the following questions in your initial post:

- How does the article relate to the topic(s) you are considering to complete your sustainability project on?
 - If you were to use this specific article as part of your project, what other type(s) of articles do you think you would need to complete your project?
 - Your initial comment should be at least 250 words and address the prompt above.
 - Your 2+ replies to your peers should build upon what has already been stated (“Yes, I agree with you” or “Great post!” replies will not receive credit) These replies should be at least 150 words in length. Please keep in mind that while all of these projects are independently completed, good research needs peer review. Do your part in helping to drive your peers’ research. Play devil’s advocate. Encourage your peers to think critically about 1) their research topic and 2) the materials they are finding in their research.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 3
- Sustainability Project Milestones (Asynchronous)
 - **Tool:** Assignments (Brightspace)
 - **Due Date:** Sunday of Week 2 by 11:59PM EST
 - **Directions:** Download the Project Milestones Document and fill in the following fields in the “Week 2” section:
 - Links and summaries (150 to 200 words each) for 3 to 4 articles that were part of your preliminary research
 - Self-ascribed due dates for all project milestones
 - Please keep mind that the dates that are already listed are **due dates for you to submit materials for class**. The due dates that you create are based on the structure you think you will need to keep yourself on track throughout the planning and development of your sustainability project. Be sure to take into account your class schedule and

work-related responsibilities as you determine what your due dates should be.

- Please submit your completed Sustainability Project Milestones document on Brightspace
- **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 2
- Sustainability Project Outline (Asynchronous)
 - **Tool:** Assignments (Brightspace)
 - **Due Date:** Sunday of Week 3 by 11:59PM EST
 - **Directions:** Download the “Sustainability Project Outline Guide” and review the required elements for the outline. Even though this outline is not due until the end of Week 3, as per your Sustainability Project Milestones document, you need to complete Sections 1 and 2 of the outline in Week 2.
 - There will be an open Topic in the Discussions tool labeled “Week 2 - Developing the Project Outline” during this week. If you have any general research or outlining questions, you should post them there. Your instructor will be actively monitoring this Forum, and some of your peers may also benefit from your insight.
 - Should you encounter any specific issues, you should either “drop in” for this week’s open office hours, or reach out to the instructor for guidance.
 - Also please keep in mind that **it is okay to change your mind on your topic of choice in Week 2**. Your topic must be certain by the end of Week 3 when you submit your outline, but at this stage it is okay to go back and forth until you are satisfied with the specific focus for your project.
 - **Learning Goals Achieved:** 1, 3