This course will analyze the global impact of cinema from the silent era to the 1990s, by tracing the development of French and Italian cinematography and their effect on different cultures and periods. Filmmaking in Italy and France was seminal for the development of European and world cinema, and the two countries mutually influenced their cinematic and intellectual production. Since Italian and French film, as in all national cinemas, are deeply tied to their country’s history and culture, we will also discuss the socio-historical background in which these films were made. Close attention will be paid to the concept of national cinema, stardom, auteur theory, cinema and politics, memory, and the development of national identity in relation to cinema. In particular, we will emphasize many cross-cultural interactions between Italian and French cinema. Starting from references to the French origin of filmmaking (Lumière brothers and Méliès) and Italian silent cinema, this course will trace a stylistic and thematic development from realism and neorealism to postmodernism, pointing out both the continuity of the tradition and exceptions to it, in an attempt to define the art of Italian and French film. This course can count towards the Italian or French major or minor, and carries GE-A credit. Taught in English.