Level Up with World Language!

University of Memphis – 2027 Language Fair

POSTER PRESENTATION | CLASSICS IN ITALY

Explore how ancient Greek and Roman civilization has been preserved, interpreted, or reimagined in Italian architecture, art, and cinema. Choose **ONE** of the three prompts below. Your poster presentation must make a clear, evidence-based connection between the classical past and Italy.

PROMPT 1 - CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN ITALY

The Greek Theater of Syracuse, Sicily

Main question: How does the Greek Theater of Syracuse live on in the life of a modern Italian city?

1. **Map and timeline:** Locate Syracuse and show when Greek settlers founded it and when its theater was built. Why is there a Greek theater in Sicily?
2. **Label a theater image:** Identify the *cavea*, *orchestra*, and *skene*. What happened in each area during a Greek drama?
3. **Find a current example:** How is the theater used today by performers, visitors, or local people? What does this show about its place in Italian culture?



PROMPT 2 - CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY IN ITALIAN ART

Raphael's Parnassus, Vatican Museums

Main question: How did Renaissance artists revive Greek mythology and classical literature?

1. **Locate the fresco:** Find Raphael's *Parnassus* in the Stanza della Segnatura (Vatican Museums, Rome). Add the artist, date, and location to your poster.
2. **Identify the figures:** Label Apollo, the Muses, and at least three poets. Who are they, and what connects them to poetry?
3. **Explain the revival:** Use details from the fresco to explain how Raphael drew on ancient Greek and Roman culture in his art during the Italian Renaissance.

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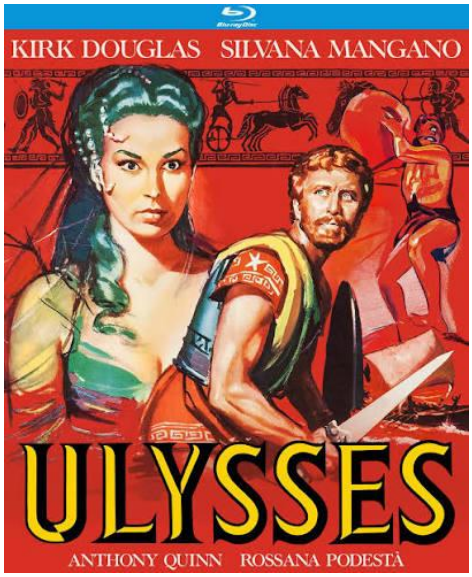


PROMPT 3 – GREEK EPIC IN ITALIAN CINEMA

Ulysses (1954), directed by Mario Camerini

Watch the film Ulysses (in Italian with English subtitles) here.
Main question: How does Mario Camerini's *Ulysses* adapt and reinterpret Homer's *Odyssey*?

1. Analyze a memorable scene from the film and include a film still (e.g., Polyphemus, Circe, or the Sirens). Explain how Camerini uses costumes, scenery, acting, or special effects to bring the ancient myth to life.
2. Camerini's *Ulysses* helped pioneer the *peplum* genre in Italian cinema (also known as sword-and-sandal films). It was produced during the period often described "Hollywood on the Tiber," when American studios increasingly used Italian production facilities. In other words, the film emerged from the intersection of three cultures: Greek, American, and Italian. After watching the film, discuss which elements seemed familiar to you as an American viewer and which seemed unfamiliar and explain why.



POSTER PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Sources
Use at least two reliable sources relevant to your topic. List them at the end of your poster and credit all images.

Content
Briefly explain the classical background of your topic. Address the three guiding points for your chosen topic, using concise examples, and connect your discussion to modern Italian culture and heritage.

Visual Presentation
Use clear headings, concise explanations, and relevant images that support your discussion. Avoid lengthy paragraphs.

Conversation with the Judges
Be ready to briefly explain your poster and answer questions in an informal conversation of about 3 minutes. A formal research paper presentation is not required.