Course description

This course covers political and social changes in the recent history of Italy. A general historical introduction is provided. The first part examines the Italian political parties system. After a brief analysis of the so-called First Republic, with specific attention to the legacy of the “Cold War”, emphasis will be given to the transition to the Second Republic. The course will describe the populist movements of the last twenty years and the impact of the European Integration process on Italian politics. The second part explores the Italian family, the gender gap and the role of the Catholic Church – basically its influence on social habits and more in general on the current political debate regarding civil rights and bioethical issues. The course also points out the economic and social disparity between the North and the South as well as the social and political roots of organized crime (Mafia and Camorra). The last part explores the transformation of Italy into a country of immigration.

The class format includes lectures, discussion, presentations, and audiovisual materials.

Bibliography:

D. Albertazzi, J. L. Newell, Introduction: A mountain giving birth to a mouse? On the impact and legacy of Silvio Berlusconi in Italy, in Modern Italy, 2015;
S., Bernini, Family politics: political rhetoric and the transformation of family life in the Italian Second Republic, in Journal of Modern Italian Studies, 2008;
S. Bernini, Televised Bodies: Berlusconi and the body of Italian women, in Journal of Italian Cinema and Media Studies, vol. 1, 2013;
A. Cento Bull, Italy and the legacy of the Cold War, Occasional Paper n. 8, European Research Institute;
G. Crainz, Italy’s political system since 1989, in Journal of Modern Italian Studies, 2015;
J. Dickie, Death of a “Leftist Fanatic”: Peppino Impastato, A history of Sicilian Mafia, Hodder, 2007;
M. Donovan, The Italian State: no longer Catholic, no longer Christian, in West
Nature of Assignments:

Mid-Term Exam

Test on arguments covered to this date.

Pages Research Paper

The purpose of writing a research paper is to clearly communicate what you have learned through your research. Your research for this course will focus on a topic among those indicated by Lecturer on a list to follow.

According to school policy you cannot present the same paper for two (or more) different courses. This will be evaluated with F grade.
The length of the paper should be between eight and twelve pages (2,500-4,000 words), using double space, character size 12. Eight pages is the minimum for a paper to be accepted. Papers must be typed, written in decent style and include documentation of sources of information in proper footnotes.

- Handwritten papers are not accepted
- One letter grade will be deducted for the first week of delay in handing in the final paper
- Late papers may not be accepted
- Plagiarism will bring you “F” grade
- All papers should have a pertinent bibliography. Websites (accepted in a very limited number) must be cited as references

Final Exam:
Test on arguments covered during the entire course.

Assessment Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Test</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Test</td>
<td>40 %</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please note that according to faculty academic resolution for no reason students are allowed to take tests at dates different from those scheduled.

Students leaving the program early will not be granted credit.

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE TO ALL CLASSES IS ESSENTIAL AND MANDATORY. ATTENDANCE TO DISCUSSIONS AND VISITS DURING FIELD TRIP IS ALSO MANDATORY, AND WILL BE AN ESSENTIAL PART FOR THE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION.
Class Participation

Students are expected to actively participate and contribute to class discussion. Participation grade requires more preparation and contribution, and if a student is not in class he/she is not contributing or receiving the inputs of his/her classmates and teacher.

Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Questions
- Commentaries and analysis on lecturer’s and others’ ideas
- Reading the assignments before class
- Contribution to the class group as a community

Class participation will count for 10%.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class 1
Introduction
General overview of the main topics of the course

Class 2
The First Republic and the “Dual State”

- The party system during the First Republic: the era of proportional representation
- Italy and the Cold War
- The Christian Democrats
- The Communist Party and the so called “conventio ad excludendum”
- The “Strategy of tension”
- The “Dual State”

Read Cento Bull

Class 3
From the First Republic to the Second Republic
• The crisis of the political system after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the judicial inquires of “Clean Hands”
• The disappearance of long standing traditional parties and the consolidation of the bipolar pattern of competition
• New parties and new (pre-election) coalitions: the centre-right and the centre-left
• Berlusconi’s rise
• The Northern League
• The “new” Right
• The Centre-Left and its weakness
• The European Integration process

Read pp. 176-188 from Crainz; pp. 179-200 from Fella and Ruzza.

Class 4
Film: Il Divo, by P. Sorrentino, Italy, 2008.

Class 5
Berlusconi’s Italy. Anti-politics and populism under the Second Republic
Documentary: “Citizen Berlusconi”

Discussion of the following topics:
• Populism
• Personalization and mediatisation of Politics
• Privatization of Politics under Berlusconi

Read pp. 11-24 from Donovan (2015); pp. 17-32 from Newell, Mancini;

Class 6
The political parties system after the 2013 General Elections
• The “Technocrat Cabinet” of Mario Monti and the European economic crisis
• The 2013 General Elections: is this the end of the Second Republic?
• The end of the bipolar system
• The “Five Stars Movement”
• The current Grand Coalition Cabinet and Matteo Renzi

Read pp. 1-23 from Bordignon; pp. 4-15 from Diamanti

Class 7
The power of the Catholic Church
• Relations between the Church and the Italian State
• Secularization
• Catholic Church’s influence on Italian social habits and politics (i.e. on bioethical matters)

Read pp. 95-116 from Donovan (2010); pp. 305-324 from Bernini (2008)

Class 8
Review

Class 9
Midterm

Class 10
Family and gender relations in Italy
• From the patriarchal family to the cultural revolution
• The current debate on family and civil rights
• Combating Berlusconi’s vision of women – documentary: “Women’s body” (comment and discussion)

Read pp. 117-122 from Sassoon; pp. 305-324 from Bernini (2008); pp. 144-159 from Passerini; pp. 87-102 from Bernini (2013)

Class 11
The “Southern Question”
• Dualism of Italian economy: economic and social gap between the North and the South of the country
• “Orientalism in one country”
• Italian emigration
• Southern Italy today
Read pp. 72-87 from Gribaudi; pp. 1-27 from Schneider

Class 12
Crime organizations and their interaction with the national politics. Sicilian Mafia

- A general overview on Italian crime organizations
- The origins of Sicilian Mafia and its transformation
- Mafia as a political subject
- Giuseppe Impastato: his actions, his murder, the investigation and the cover up

Read pp. 661-672 from L. I. Shelley; pp. 195-214 from Ginsborg; Santino; pp. 21-33 from Lupo; pp. 344-355 from Dickie

Class 13
Film: “One hundred steps”, by M. T. Giordana. Italy, 2000

Class 14
The Neapolitan “Camorra”
- The origins of the Neapolitan Camorra and its organization
- Camorra and Saviano ‘s bestseller “Gomorra” (comment and discussion of some chapters from the book)

Read Saviano (Selection)

Class 15

Italy: a country of new immigration

- Immigration and Italian economy
- Immigration and citizenship
- Immigration, Europe and the burden sharing issue

Read Zanfrini; pp. 23-53 from Zincone

Class 16

Film: The green blood, Andrea Segre, 2010.
Class 17
Oral presentation

Class 18
Review

Class 19
Final exam

Field trip to Rome