Course: Modern Italian politics and society

Semester: Winter 2016
Instructor: Dr. Valentina Raparelli
Class Location: St. Agostino
Class Meeting Time: Tues/Thurs 9.00 am
Office Hours: After/before class or by appointment
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Course description

This course covers political and social changes in the recent history of Italy, focusing on current political life and society. A general historical introduction is provided. The first part of the course will examine Italian politics and society under the so called First Republic, with specific attention to the legacy of the “Cold War”, the transition to the Second Republic, and the current Grand Coalition Cabinet. Emphasis will be placed on the social and political background of Berlusconi’s rise and, more in general, of the populist movements of the last twenty years. The course includes also an analysis of the following topics: the position of Italy in the European Community and the role of the Catholic Church – basically its influence on the social habits and more in general on Italian Politics. The last part of the course will point out the economic and social gap between the North and the South of the country, the transformation of the patriarchal family and the impact of feminism on Italian society. The course will pay particular attention to the social and political roots of organized crime (Mafia and Camorra), focusing on its interaction with the politics both at local and at national level, and to the transformation of Italy into a country of immigration.

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

COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The course aims to give you:

- A good knowledge of Italian contemporary politics and society
LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

- Acquire information about Italian political party system
- Acquire familiarity with the distinction between First and Second Republic
- Acquire information about Technocrat Cabinets and Grand Coalition Cabinets
- Acquire information about the Italian economy and the gap between the North and the South of the country
- Learn to identify the Catholic Church’s influence on social habits and politics
- Acquire information about the social transformation brought by the Feminist Movement
- Learn to identify the consequences of the “privatization” of politics
- Learn to identify the threat to democracy caused by the combination of mass media power and anti-political populism
- Acquire information about the consequences on Italian economy and politics of the European integration process
- Acquire information about the social and political roots of Italian crime organization
- Learn to identify the origin of xenophobic and racist behaviour
- Acquire information about the transformation of Italy from a country of emigration to a country of immigration

TEACHING METHODS

Course will be made of classroom lectures, documentaries and films.

Key concepts:

- First Republic
- Second Republic
- Technocrat Cabinet
- Grand Coalition Cabinet
- Dual State
- Convention ad excludendum
- Multipartitism
- “Strategy of tension”
- Emigration
• Immigration
• Xenophobia
• “Southern Question”
• Feminism
• Secularization
• Mafia and Camorra
• Freemasonry
• European integration
• Corruption
• Conflict of interests
• Populism

TEXTBOOK
Reader Provided by the Lecturer on Pdf format

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 European Politics, 2010;
M. Donovan, Berlusconi’s impact and legacy: political parties and the party system, in Modern Italy, vol. 20, 2015;
P. Ginsborg, Italy and its discontents. Family, civil society, State, Penguin, 2001;
G. Gribaudi, Images of the South, in D. Forgacs and R. Lumley, Italian cultural studies, Oxford University Press, 1996;
L. Passerini, *Gender Relations*, in *Italian cultural studies*, Oxford University Press, 1996;
C. Ruzza, S. Fella, *Changing political opportunities and the re-invention of Italian Right*, in Journal of Southern Europe and Balkans, vol. 8, n. 2, 2006;
U. Santino, *Mafia and Mafia-type organizations in Italy*, Centro di documentazione “Giuseppe Impastato”, 2003;
J. Schneider, *Introduction: The Dynamics of Neo-orientalism in Italy (1848-1995)*, in *Italy’s Southern Question*, Bloomsbury Academic, 1998;
L. Zanfrini, *Immigration in Italy*, 2013;

**Supplementary Material**

Supplementary material to complement lectures will be given during classes.

**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 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.

Attendance Policy

Successful progress of the Program depends on the full cooperation of both students and faculty members. Most courses are taught by means of lectures and classroom discussion,
which means that regular attendance and active participation in classes are essential parts of the educational process.

Attendance is required in all courses. Students who accumulate more than the permitted number of absences, regardless of the reason, will receive an attendance failure (grade of F) unless they withdraw from the course.
The last day to withdraw from the course is two weeks prior to the final exam date. There is no remedy for attendance failures given during the last two weeks of classes.

In courses which meet twice per week, students may not have more than four absences.
In courses that meet once per week, students may not have more than two absences.
In summer sessions, due to the intensive nature of the classes, students may not have more than two absences.
Students are expected to be in class on time. Lateness of more than fifteen minutes will be counted as half an absence.

Students are expected to treat with maturity attendance and punctuality regulations for all components of the course
No excuse for absence will exempt a student from the completion of all work in a course.
The student assumes the responsibility for requesting assistance from faculty members for making up missed work.

During the first week of classes, if a student misses both sessions of a course that meets twice per week or the one session of a course that meets once per week, the instructor has the right to ask the Registrar to drop the student from the course.

N.B: The instructor reserves the right to modify meeting times when and if necessary for the educational benefit of the class or due to constraints imposed by unforeseen circumstances. Communication about such changes will be effected via group email messages or verbally in class prior to the date of the affected class. It is the individual student’s responsibility to stay informed of any such changes.

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
Thurs, Jan, 14
Introduction
General overview of the main topics of the course

Class 2
Tues – Jan, 19
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
Thurs – Jan, 21
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”
• Berlusconi’s rise
• The disappearance of long standing traditional parties and the consolidation of the bipolar pattern of competition
• New parties and new (pre-election) coalitions
• 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
Tues – Jan, 26
Film: Il Divo, by P. Sorrentino, Italy, 2008.

Class 5
Thurs– Jan, 28
Berlusconi’s Italy. Anti-politics and populism under the Second Republic
Documentary: “Citizen Berlusconi”

Discussion of the following topics:
• The mixture of public and private spheres
• Populism and the Italian right
• Berlusconi’s judiciary inquires
• The fall of Berlusconi

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

Class 6
Tues – Feb, 2
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
Thurs - Feb, 4

- Relations between the Church and the Italian State
- Secularization
- Catholic Church’s influence on Italian social habits and politics

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

Class 8
Tues - Feb, 9
Review

Class 9
Thurs – Feb, 11
Midterm

Class 10
Tues - Feb, 16
Family and gender relations in Italy

- From the patriarchal family to the cultural revolution
- Italian women in the 1970s
- 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
Thurs – Feb, 18
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
Tues – Feb, 23
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
Thurs - Feb, 25

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

Fri - Feb, 26
Fieldtrip to Rome

Class 14
Tues – March, 1
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
Thurs – March, 3
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
Tues – March, 8
Film: The green blood, Andrea Segre, 2010.

Class 17
Thur – March, 10
Oral presentation

Class 18
Tues – March, 15
Review

Class 19
Thurs – March, 17
Final exam