

Contemporary Italian Politics

UNH Course number: POL361
Class meeting: Tuesdays 9.30 – 12.15
Instructor: Gabriele Simoncini
Subject Areas: Political Science
Level: 300
Prerequisites: None
Language of Instruction: English
Contact Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3

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Description: This course provides you with a comprehensive survey of politics and political change in modern Italy, and will greatly help you develop your skills in critical thinking and comparative analysis. Employing a variety of lectures, site visits, classroom discussions, debates, guest lectures and your own independent research projects, you'll learn about the political theories, movements and events that have affected the course of this nation's development. Fascism, the reconstruction of Italy after the war, the implications of the cold war for the shape of domestic politics, the shifting structure of modern Italian political movements, the party system, and the political ideologies and theories all continue to shape change. An additional, comparative function of this course will be a correlation of political institutions in Europe and those in the United States, urging you to reflect upon your own political environment.

To bring these topics alive in both an animated and constructive fashion, and to provide you with the skills in the areas of collaborative learning, oral debate and presentation, you will be holding simulated debates on social issues, and making independent and team presentations with audiovisual and electronic materials. We will also be viewing selected movies during the course, analyzing the viewpoints of Italian film-makers as social commentators.

To complement your learning we will be using the city of Rome, the nation's political capital, as a constant resource to observe and analyze Italian politics in real life situations, including visits to the chambers of the Italian Parliament and Senate, and we will hear presentations delivered by guest speakers from the Italian political scene.

Learning Objectives:

- to develop the ability to critically analyze the background and the present state of Italian politics
- to be able to relate Italian political ideas, events, and players to the broader European political arena
- to build up the critical ability to contextualize Italian political themes and so better explain the broader process of European political, economic, and social integration
- to be able to identify the chief comparative aspects of the political situation in the United States
- the assignments will develop your ability to conduct basic research, to assess and organize your findings in a logical and independent way, and to gain valuable experience in public speaking

Instructional Format: This course will meet once a week for 2 hours 45 minutes. The class format includes lectures, discussions, presentations, and audiovisual materials. Experiential learning integrates lectures with teamwork, student presentations, portfolios, field trips, guest speakers, and movie screenings. You are also requested to make extensive use of Information and Communication Technology.

Form of Assessment:

Class Participation	10%
Research project proposal & annotated bibliography	20%
Presentation & other assignments	15%
Midterm exam	15%
Final paper with Portfolio	20%
Final exam	20%

Class Participation (10%): The grade will be calculated to reflect your participation in class discussions, your capacity to introduce ideas and thoughts dealing with the texts, your ability to interpret different uses of literary language and to express your analysis in intellectual, constructive argumentation. When determining your class participation grade, traditional criteria such as material preparation, completed reading before class, and collaborative group work are also evaluated. But it is the active, meaningful and informed verbal and written contribution that you make that is most important to your overall participation grade. Whereas attendance and punctuality are expected and will not count positively towards the grade, laxity in these areas will have a negative effect on your grade. The instructor will use the following specific criteria when calculating your class participation grade:

Criteria for Assessing Class Participation	Grade
You make major and original contributions that spark discussion, offering both critical and analytical comments clearly based on readings and research and displaying a working knowledge of theoretical issues.	A+ 97-100
You make significant contributions that demonstrate insight as well as knowledge of required readings and independent research.	A-/A 90-96.9
You make useful contributions and participate voluntarily, which are usually based upon some reflection and familiarity with required readings.	B/B+ 84-89.9
You make voluntarily but infrequent comments that generally reiterate the basic points of the required readings.	C+/B- 77-83.9
You make limited comments only when prompted and do not initiate debate or show a clear awareness of the importance of the readings.	C 74-76.9
You very rarely make comments and resist engagement with the subject, attending class having manifestly done little if any preparation.	D+/C- 67-73.9
You are unable to make useful comments and contributions, being occasionally absent from, generally passive in, and unprepared for class.	D/D- 60-66.9
You make irrelevant and tangential comments disruptive to class discussion, a result of frequent absence and complete un-preparedness.	F Below 60

Two in-class Exams: (midterm exam and final exam). Midterm and final exams have the

same format. The exams consist of two parts of equal value. The first part is an essay, chosen from one of three proposed themes. The second part of the exam consists of ten terms to be concisely defined.

Research project proposal & annotated bibliography: To be handed in during week 4. The first stage of this project is a formal proposal identifying your topic, scope, approach and objectives. You will identify a particular question or political "problem" and offer a way of answering/solving it. Your research proposal must be accompanied by an annotated bibliography (that is, accompanied by your written comments on the origins, value and limitations of your sources) identifying key sources and how you plan to use them.

Final Paper with a Portfolio: The final paper (3,000 words) will be based on your research project proposal and its annotated bibliography. In order to produce your final paper you will keep a portfolio of research materials during the semester. The final paper and the portfolio will both be assessed at the end of the course.

Presentation: You are required to give an individual or team presentation on a specific topic of your choice related to the class program. The presentation will be well-organized, concise, and include (when opportune) audiovisual and electronic materials. Your grade will especially take into consideration accuracy and clarity of content.

More detailed instructions, advice and suggested research topics will be distributed during the course.

CEA Attendance Policy: Every student is expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and be thoroughly prepared for the day's class activities. In compliance with NEASC and UNH accreditation requirements, CEA GlobalCampus instructors compile regular attendance records for every course and take these records into account when evaluating student participation and performance.

- In each course, a maximum of two days of accumulated absences due to sickness, personal emergency, inevitable transport delay and other related impediments will be tolerated.
- Your final course grade will drop one full letter grade (e.g. A- to B-) for missing three days of class, regardless of the reason for your absence.
- You will automatically fail a course if your absences exceed three days of class.

Furthermore, to comply with immigration and financial regulations, you must maintain full-time student status and attend at least 1 course in accordance with this policy. Consequently, the Dean and Program Director will dismiss from all CEA courses, programs, activities and housing any student who fails to maintain full-time status.

Required readings: You will need to buy copies of the following three books, and the approximate price will be a total of around \$80. They are ordered and available at a specific bookstore that will be indicated by the Academic Coordinator during Academic Orientation. Please note that it is mandatory to buy these books, and that it is mandatory for you to have your personal copy of each of them.

Foot J., *Modern Italy*. Palgrave, 2003. pp. 270

Bull M.J., Newell J.L., *Italian Politics*. Polity 2008. pp. 262.

Clark M., *Modern Italy 1871-1995*. London, 1996. pp. 488.

Ginsborg P., *A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics*. Macmillan, 1990. pp. 592.

The following source is available at the CEA library:

The Economist, *On Italy*. 2007 - 2008.

Throughout the syllabus, **assigned readings** will come from *The Economist*, *On Italy* and from contemporary journals or newspapers depending on the progress of the class, your personal research interests, and current political events in Italy.

Recommended readings:

The following sources are available at the CEA resource center:

Hine D., *Governing Italy: The Politics of Bargained Pluralism*. Oxford, 1993. pp. 310.

Ginsborg P., *Italy and its Discontents. 1980-2001*. London, 2001. pp. 544.

Putnam R. D., *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, 1993. pp. 280.

Online Reference & Research Tools:

www.italy-news.net

www.istat.it

www.ansa.it

www.governo.it

Recommended films:

Some class viewing may be scheduled during the semester. To be announced.

Library sessions:

The class will meet occasionally in the library to receive instruction on electronic tools and sources. Individual assistance will be provided to you for your research. To be announced.

Guest speakers:

Guest speakers expert in the fields related to the program will be invited during the semester. To be announced.

Field trips:

Field trips will be scheduled during the semester in connection with ongoing events of interest in Rome. To be announced.

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Course Content:

Session	Topic	Activity	Student Assignments
1 (Jan 19)	Introduction. Methodology. Definitions.		<i>assigned readings from <u>The Economist</u>, <u>On Italy</u> and from contemporary journals or newspapers</i>
2 (Jan 26)	Political Change in Italy. Historical and Cultural Overview.	Film	<i>Foot, p. 1-13; Bull, p. 1-19; Clark, p. 1-90; assigned readings</i>
3 (Feb 2)	Post War Economy. The Nation: definition and Components.	Presentations	<i>Foot, p. 14-35; Bull, p. 20-38; Clark, p. 92-177; assigned readings</i>
4 (Feb 9)	Republic and Nation. Political Parties. The Party System.	Field Trip	<i>Foot, p. 36-53; Bull, p. 39-62; Clark, p. 180-229; assigned readings</i>
5 (Feb 16)	Institutions, organizations, and Rules. Political Culture.	Presentations	<i>Foot, p. 54-76; Bull, p. 63-80; Clark, p. 230-300; assigned readings</i>
6 (Feb 23)	Administration, Taxation and Public Services. The Representation of Interests.	Guest Speaker	<i>Foot, p. 77-110; Bull, p. 81-97; Clark, p. 302-326; assigned readings</i>
7 (Mar 2)	Social Italies: Country and City. Informal Institutions.	Presentations	<i>Foot, p. 111-137; Bull, p. 98-114; Ginsborg, p. 121-185; assigned readings</i>
8 (Mar 9)		<u>MIDTERM EXAM</u>	
9 (Mar 16)	The "Dolce vita" Style. The Southern Question. Mafias. The government.	Presentations	<i>Foot, p.138-158; Bull, p.115-137; Ginsborg, p. 186-253; assigned readings</i>
10 (Mar 30)	Organized Politics. The left, and the Right. Bureaucracy and Judiciary.	Field Trip	<i>Foot, p.159-173; Bull, p.138-154; Ginsborg, p. 254-297; assigned readings</i>
11 (Apr 6)	The Church and Catholic Politics. Central-Local Relations.	Presentations Film	<i>Foot, p.174-191; Bull, p.155-170; Ginsborg, p. 298-347; assigned readings</i>
12 (Apr 13)	The Second republic. Economy and Industry.	Guest Speaker	<i>Foot, p.192-213; Bull, p.171-209; assigned readings</i>
13 (Apr 20)	Italy, the European Union and globalization.	Presentations <u>FINAL PAPER</u>	<i>Bull, p.210-237; assigned readings</i>
14 (Apr 27)		<u>FINAL EXAM</u>	