



Global Education Solutions

CEA GlobalCampus: Rome

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**Living Italy:
Contemporary Culture & Society**

UNH Course number: SOC320

Class meeting: Mon to Thurs, 14.15-17.00

Instructor: Gabriele Simoncini

Subject Areas: Italian Studies, Cultural Studies

Level: 300

Prerequisites: None

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Description: This dynamic course provides you with a thoroughly interactive introduction to life and culture in Italy, exploring a range of issues that characterize the country and its people. Our emphasis will be on helping you reach informed opinions about many traits of Italian culture and society, as well as understand some aspects in greater depth. Many site excursions are planned, in addition to field research, carried out individually or in groups.

The city of Rome – its public buildings, squares, churches, university and schools, its markets, its artisans' shops, its boutiques, restaurants, and coffee shops, its sports-venues, etc. – these will be your primary research site. You will be challenged to develop presentations by which to communicate your findings to the rest of the class.

This course will introduce you to an overview of specific events, trends, and phenomena which have shaped contemporary Italy. Information and analysis will be provided on such topics as localism/regionalism, language, social and political cultures, the Church, gender issues, organized crime, deviance, cinema, mass media, and global trends.

Students will be thoroughly exposed to their host city, Rome, through outings to relevant sites like markets, places of religious worship, and immigrant communities. An important part of your learning will consist in documenting your knowledge and discussing your experiences with other students on a course blog, engaging in and presenting your own field research through conducting surveys and polls, participating actively in student-led discussions and debates, and sharing your own experiences while traveling throughout Italy. Guest speakers will provide personal views of life in Italy and Rome. You'll also attend film screenings which will illustrate key social, economic, and political issues in the development of postwar Italy. The course also comprises a trip to Siena (to experience firsthand the

Contrada) and a special class visit to a prison in the Tuscan city of Volterra to discuss the issues of Law and Order in Italy.

Learning Objectives:

- to practice observing foreign practices and customs and to evaluate their merits
- to acquire more in depth knowledge of at least one place and one well-known Italian film
- to practice presenting and critically (& sympathetically) evaluating foreign customs before peers
- to develop observational skills
- to provide detailed written accounts of Italian society and culture in the form of a reflection paper
- to explain, evaluate, and critically analyze complex cultural issues in Italy
- to apply analytical frameworks and notions to their own experiences in Italy
- to develop intellectual curiosity in researching a specific facet of Italian culture and society in writing, and providing the findings of, a critical literature review
- to demonstrate cultural awareness, including how to reflect critically on one’s own culture and society
- to contribute to course content and guide their own learning through conducting polls and interviews (e.g., on Italian religious mores, views of immigrants, the masculinization of urban space); a dedicated course blog will provide a forum in which students are expected to pose questions, engage in constructive debate, post useful information (e.g., web sites, bibliographical references), and discuss course content

Instructional Format: Class meets four times a week for 2 hours 45 minutes each time. Course work is comprised of lectures, class discussions/debates, video and audio material, outside readings, independent or group onsite study, a research project, guest lectures, and research excursions. **There is a class field trip on one Friday during the course, and as participation in the field trip is mandatory you should not make any travel plans until you have seen the final syllabus in class.**

Form of Assessment: The instructor will use numerous and differentiated forms of assessment to calculate the final grade you receive for this course. The content, criteria, and specific requirements for each assesment category will be explained in greater detail in class. However, you must complete all grading assessment categories to receive a grade for this course. In addition, your work and behavior in this course must fully conform to the regulations of the CEA *Academic Integrity Policy* to which you are subject. Your instructor may also require that you hand in an electornic copy of such work.

Class Participation	10%
Research Paper Draft & annotated bibliography	10%
Class Presentation & other assignments	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Research Paper	30%

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. However, 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 toward 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

Class Presentation: reviewed by instructor for ability to inform other students of a particular aspect of Italian culture or society

Research Paper: (approximately 4-7 pages) evaluated in the form of a scholarly literature review, completed in pairs. The grade will be distributed as follows: ¼ annotated bibliography; ¼ rough draft; ½ final draft.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: designed to establish and communicate to you the progress you are making toward meeting the course learning objectives. They are comprised of questions and exercises that test your ability in three important areas of competency: the amount of information you master, the accuracy of the information you present, the significance you ascribe to the facts and ideas you have integrated in this 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: The following reading selections are required and are stored in the e-course file assigned to this class. The files are located in the course folder found on the desktop of any student computers called *shortcut to courses*, which can be accessed from any PC in the student computer room.

You will be required to read these texts, and you are encouraged to highlight and take notes on them as you see fit. Direct access to additional resources and databanks are available to you through the online library of the University of New Haven (please consult your handbook). The Academic Coordinator compiles a bank of detailed information about the libraries located in Rome that are accessible to CEA GlobalCampus students.

Foot J., *Modern Italy*. New York, 2003. (selections)

Arlacchi, P. *Mafia Business*. Oxford University Press, 1987. (selections)

Cavanaugh, Jillian R. "A Modern *Questione della Lingua*: The Incomplete Standardization of Italian in a Northern Italian Town." *The Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe*, vol. 8, No. 1, (Spring/Summer 2008), pp. 18-31.

Dickie, J. *A History of the Sicilian Mafia*. Hodder and Stoughton, 2004. (selections)

Duggan, C. *A Concise History of Italy*. Cambridge University Press, 1994. (selections)

Dundes, A. and A. Falassi. *La Terra in Piazza: An Interpretation of the Palio of Siena*. University of California Press, 1975. (selections)

Forgacs, D. and R. Lumley. *Italian Cultural Studies. An Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 1996. (selections; listed in Content section as F&L)

Ginsborg, P. *Italy and Its Discontents. Family, Civil Society, State. 1980-2001*. Penguin, 2003. (selections)

Guano, Emanuela. "Respectable Ladies and Uncouth Men: The Performative Politics of Class and Gender in the Public Realm of an Italian City." *Journal of American Folklore*, vol. 120, No. 475, (Winter 2007), pp. 48-72.

Krause, Elizabeth L. "Encounters with the 'peasant': Memory work, masculinity, and low fertility in Italy." *American Ethnologist*, vol. 32, No. 4 (2005), pp. 593-617.

Saraceno, C. "The Italian Family from the 1960s to the Present." *Modern Italy*, vol. 9, No. 1, (May, 2004), pp. 47-57.

Schneider, J. and P. Schneider. *Culture and Political Economy in Western Sicily*. Academic Press, 1976. (selections)

Silverman, S. *Three Bells of Civilization: The Life of an Italian Hill Town*. Columbia University Press, 1975. (selections)

Sorlin, P. *Italian National Cinema , 1896-1996*. Routledge, 1996. (selections)

Stille, A. "Silvio's Shadow." *Columbia Journalism Review*, vol. 45, No. 3, (Sept./Oct., 2006), pp. 32-41.

Varese, F. "How Mafias Migrate: The Case of the 'Ndrangheta in Northern Italy." *Law & Society Review*, vol. 40, No. 2, (2006), pp. 411-444.

Recommended Readings:

The following resources are available at the CEA resource center:

Banfield, Edward C. *The Moral Basis of a Backward Society*. Free Press, 1958. 188 pages

Bono, P. and S. Kemp, eds. *Italian Feminist Thought*. Blackwell, 1991. 458 pages

De Martino, E. (Fwd. Vincent Crapanzano; Trans. Dorothy Zinn). *The Land of Remorse: A Study of Southern Italian Tarantism*. Free Association Books, 2005. 332 pages

Dickie, J. *Cosa Nostra. A History of the Sicilian Mafia*. Hodder and Stoughton, 2004. 528 pages

Ginsborg, P. *A History of Contemporary Italy: Society and Politics 1943-1980*. Penguin, 1990. 586 pages

Ginsborg, P. *Italy and its Discontents, 1980-2001*. Penguin, 2001. 521 pages

Jamieson, A. *The Antimafia. Italy's Fight Against Organized Crime*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999. 280 pages

Living Italy

Course Content:

Session	Topic	Activity	Student Assignments
1 Monday July 13th	Introduction. Background Information		
2 Tuesday July 14th	Political and Social History	Film	Reading: Foot, pp.1-25; Forgacs & Lumley, pp.13-17; Duggan, pp.10-30.
3 Wednesday July 15th	Regionalism/Localism	Field Trip (in Rome)	Reading: Foot, pp.26-50; Silverman pp.149- 177.
4 Thursday July 16th	Civil Society	Film	Reading: Dundes & Falassi, pp.12-47. Silverman pp.1-44.
Friday/Saturday July 17th/18th		Field trip to Siena/Volterra	
5 Monday July 20th	Research and Writing	Workshop: Writing the Research Paper	Reading: Foot, pp.51-100.
6 Tuesday July 21th	Political Culture and Political System	Guest Speaker	Reading: Forgacs & Lumley, pp.129-143; Ginsborg, pp.112- 119.
7 Wednesday July 22th	Review	Review / Discussion	Review all notes in preparation for review session.
8 Thursday July 23th	Midterm Examination	Exam	

9 Monday July 27th	Language	Field Trip (in Rome)	Reading: Foot, pp.101-125; Forgacs & Lumley, pp.88-101; Cavanaugh, pp.18- 31.
10 Tuesday July 28th	Mass Media	Analysis of Italian Media/Press	Reading: Forgacs & Lumley, pp.185-198; Forgacs & Lumley, pp.273-290. Research Paper Draft due.
11 Wednesday July 29th	Mafia	Film	Reading: Arlacchi, pp.3-54; Schneider & Schneider, pp.81- 109.
12 Thursday July 30th	Berlusconi	Field Trip (in Rome)	Reading: Foot, 126-150; Stille, pp.32-41.
13 Monday August 3rd	Family/Gender	Guest Speaker Presentations	Reading: Saraceno, pp.47- 57; Guano, pp.48-72; Forgacs & Lumley, pp.144-159; Research Paper due.
14 Tuesday August 4th	Cinema	Film Presentations	Reading: Forgacs & Lumley, pp.216-232; Sorlin, pp.88-118.
15 Wednesday August 5th	Review	Review / Discussion	Review all notes in preparation for review session.
16 Thursday August 6th	Final Examination	Exam	