

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Florence

Course Title: History of Modern Italy

Course Code: FL/ITLS 273

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Italian Studies / History

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description of the Course

This course covers Italian history from unification (1861) to the present day. Special emphasis is given to the role of Italy in World War II, Fascism, the birth of the First Republic and the decades leading up to the Second Republic. The latter part of the course focuses on contemporary Italy, from 1980 to the present day, and on the role of Italy in the European context.

Objectives

Students acquire a significant understanding of 1) contemporary Italy and 2) the country's modern and recent history, social developments and culture. The courses approach is multi-disciplinary and uses methods from primarily the field of history but also sociology, geography, anthropology and political science.

The course and its contents guide students in their own cross-cultural comparison of Italian and American attitudes and culture. From a broader perspective, the general objective of the course is to make students aware that most of what happens in Italy at the present day is the result of decisions made many years ago. Only through an in-depth knowledge of the *past* is it possible to properly understand the *present* and provide solutions for the *future*.

Course Method and Requirements

In this course, lectures combine with readings and in-depth discussions in class. Students are expected to actively participate in these sessions. Other course requirements include several position papers with accompanying presentation, a term paper and a comprehensive final exam.

Students are expected to complete the readings listed for each lesson prior to each class meeting time.

Reading assignments are indicated in the Outline of Course Content and generally consist of 30 to 50 pages for each class session.

Methods of Evaluation

- Participation 25%
- Position papers and presentations 25%
- Term paper 25%
- Final Examination 25%

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Primary Texts

Ginsborg, P. A. *History of Modern Italy: Society and Politics, 1943-1988*. London, Penguin.

Ginsborg, P. *Italy and Its Discontents: 1980-2001*. London, Penguin.

Smith, D. M. *Modern Italy, a Political History*. University of Michigan Press.

Koff, S. Z. and Koff, S. D. *Italy: From the 1st to the 2nd Republic*. Routledge.

Putnam, R.D. *Making Democracy Work. Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton University Press

In addition to these textbooks, specific articles are available in a shared online folder for the course.

Outline of Course Content

Note: Fall/Spring students cover approximately 1 topic every 1 to 2 weeks. During the summer, when class periods are longer, students cover just over 1 topic per week.

TOPIC 1 – Making Italy in the 19th Century

The Italian Risorgimento and Unification: four steps. The prospects for a united Italy after Unification.

TOPIC 2 – Making Italy in the 20th Century

Italian nationalism: its origins, its development and its current state. The early Catholic and Socialist movements and their contribution to national identity.

TOPIC 3 - Fascism

Origins and movement. Consolidation of Dictatorship. Mussolini and his aspirations for the Nation and the Italians.

TOPIC 4 – Making Italians: the 20th Century

Civic life and the dictatorship: life and society under Fascism. Italian society and the Italians during the War, 1940-1945.

TOPIC 5 – Italy in WWII

Italian resistance. The Decline of the Fascist regime

TOPIC 6 – Post War Italy

The birth of the Republic. The Italian institutional system. Issues in the new political multiparty system.

TOPIC 7 – Post War Society

From reconstruction to an “Economic Miracle”: the transformation of Italy and the creation of a national culture. The Southern Question.

TOPIC 8 – Church and State

Relations between the Catholic Church and the Italian State since 1945. Participation and belief in Italy today.

TOPIC 9 – From the First to the Second Republic

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The reaction to the endemic corruption of the Italian political elites. Silvio Berlusconi: a new protagonist on the Italian political scene.

TOPIC 10 – Contemporary Italy

Italy within the EU framework from the 1990s to the present day: from euro-enthusiasm to euro-skepticism. The Third Republic. The impact of the 2013 and 2018 elections on the Italian political system.