

California State University  
Spring 2016

**SYLLABUS**

**Italian Politics & Society – SSC 401**

Prof. Enrico Calossi

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CV in:

Google scholar: [https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=ICI\\_0GgAAAAJ&hl=it](https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=ICI_0GgAAAAJ&hl=it)

Academia.edu: <https://csuflorence.academia.edu/EnricoCalossi>

Office hours: Friday 8-10 am (by appointment)

Class schedule: WED: 16.00-19,15

**Mid-term exam** on Wed April 13: 16.00-18.45

**Final exams** on Wed May 25: 16:00-18.45,

Make-up classes might be fixed for health or personal reasons of the lecturer.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The course wants provide students with the conceptual tools and the basic factual knowledge that are necessary for the understanding of the Italian political system. In particular, students will become acquainted with the major historical determinants of Italy's societal economic and institutional structure. These notions will constitute the frame of reference for the study of Italy's political actors and institutions; parliamentary system, elections, national and regional government, European Union membership, political parties, interest groups, social movements. In order to give the students a more concrete understanding of the way the system operates, class discussion will be encouraged on current aspects. In particular, students will be asked to report on aspects of Italy's changing political system and socio-economic structure, such as: recently implemented or projected institutional reforms; party system changes; election results' political consequences; demographic trends; fiscal crisis and budgetary constraints.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Completing ALL required readings and regular attendance will be expected of all students. Material covered in class will not always be covered in the readings and vice versa; students will be responsible for all material regardless of where presented. Readings listed as "recommended" are necessary for a full understanding of the course's subject matter; knowledge of these readings, however, will not be assumed in evaluating and grading tests and exams. Active participation in class discussions is strongly urged. Questions and comments will always be welcome.

Students will be asked to write reports on ALL videos indicated in the syllabus as "required".

**SUBMISSION OF REPORTS/PAPERS**

For in-class activities, submission must be done by handing a HARD PRINTED or HAND WRITTEN version of the report to the instructor before the end of class. At-home activities have to be sent by EMAIL to the lecturer. Late submissions by up to two days will result in a

two point (i.e., from 89 to 87) deduction from the final total score irrespective of the quality of the report.

Reports submitted three or more days late or not submitted will result in a 5 point (i.e., from 89 to 84) deduction from the total score, irrespective of the quality of the report.

### **GRADING**

Grades will be based on two (mid-term and final) exams; both will consist of an obligatory essay, a choice essay and multiple choice questions. The mid-term exam and the final exam will be worth respectively 35% (home essay: 15%; in-class essay: 11%; m/c questions 9% ea.) and 65% (home essay: 30%; in-class essay: 22%; m/c questions 13% of the total final score.

Final scores will be translated into grades on the basis of a consideration of the class' overall performance. In any event, however, a full A grade will be awarded exclusively to students whose total scores are 90 and above. Likewise, a total final score of at least 60 points will be necessary to obtain a passing grade. Outstanding class participation and reports could result in a 5-point bonus. Poor class participation/reports AND lack of punctuality could each result in a 5-point penalization.

### **ATTENDANCE AND OTHER CLASS POLICIES**

A) Attendance to all CSU courses is mandatory. One unexcused absence is allowed during the semester but more than one unexcused absence will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **TWO** unexcused absences, lowers by 1.5 letter grades (i.e., B to C-); **THREE** unexcused absences, lowers by 3 letter grades (i.e., A to D). More than **THREE unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.**

B) In order not to disrupt the class, **punctuality** is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered an absence.

C) Dates of mid-term and final exams **cannot** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Missing the midterm or the final exam will mean failure of the course.

D) During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

E) Use of laptop computers in class is not permitted, unless previously approved by the professor.

F) Eating is NOT allowed in class.

G) Cellular phones must be **turned off** or placed on **silent mode** during class.

### **POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL COSTS**

Theater admissions for one or two films (about € 10 each)

Transportation and admission costs for a possible site visit (to be determined, but no more than € 25)

## **LOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Italy's political system: overview.

Class handouts (required)

### **2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SOCIAL CLEAVAGES**

Unification of Italy. Failure of the Liberal State. Fascism. The Resistance. Development of cultural diversity and consolidation of social cleavages. The Constitution and its implementation.

Newell: Chronology, Introduction, and chapt. 1 (required)

Matteo Garrone: Gomorra (video) (required)

### **3. INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT**

Italy's old and new electoral systems.

The President of the Republic. Prime Minister and Cabinet. Parliament.

Public administration. Regional and local government.

Newell: chapt. 2-7 (required)

### **4. ECONOMY AND SOCIETY**

Reconstruction, economic boom, and crises.

Social classes and actors (unions, industrialists, media, Catholic Church, social movements).

Old and new problems: corruption, unemployment, housing, immigration.

Newell, chapt. 8-9 (required)

Vannucci (required)

Visconti, "Rocco and his Brothers" (video) (required)

Saviano R. "Gomorra" (the book: suggested)

### **5. THE CHANGING ITALIAN PARTY SYSTEM**

Changes in electoral behavior. Old and new actors.

Actor change vs. structural change.

2014 European Elections

Newspapers' articles on the 2013 Political / 2014 European / 2015 Regional Elections,  
given by the teacher

Calossi and Pizzimenti (required)

### **6. ITALY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

EU impact on institutions, parties, policies and culture.

Newell: chapt. 10 (required)

### **7. CONCLUSION: POLITICAL SYSTEM CHANGE: EXTENT, IMPLICATIONS AND PROSPECTS**

Limits of reform. Institutional and political consequences. What next?

Some of the readings may be replaced with more recent ones that could become available in the course of the term.

#### Class Calendar

class #	day	Subject	Readings. Chapter of textbook
1	24 February	Introduction _ History	Slides, Ch 1.
2	2 March	History	Slides, Ch 1.
3	9 March	Constitutional Framework and Multilevel Democracy	Ch 2, 3, 4.
4	16 March	Political Culture, Interests' mediation, Pressure groups	Ch 5, 6.
5	23 March	Supranational level, Organised crime, Policy Making	correspondent chapters in textbook
6	6 April	Organized Crime	Movie: "Gomorra"
7	13 April	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
8	20 April	Feedback on Midterm / Electoral Systems	Ch 7, Calossi&Pizzimenti
9	27 April	Corruption, Economy, Welfare	Ch 8, 9, Vannucci
10	4 May	Social Changes in Italy	Movie: "Rocco e i suoi fratelli"
11	11 May	Rights, Information System	Ch 8, newspapers
12	18 May	Foreign affairs, European Union, Sports	Ch 10.
13	25 May	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### TEXTBOOK

**Newell, J. (2010) *The Politics of Italy. Governance in a normal country.***

Calossi, Enrico and Eugenio Pizzimenti (2015) "**Party Organizational Change. Formal distribution of power between national and regional levels in Italian political parties (1991-2012)**" in "*Partecipazione e Conflitto*", Volume 8, Issue 1 [March 15, 2015], Special issue on: *NEW PERSPECTIVES ON PARTY POLITICS*. Guest Editors: Francesco Raniolo, Marco Damiani, and Lorenzo Viviani. DOI: 10.1285/i20356609v8i1p167 free download: <http://sibaese.unisalento.it/index.php/paco/article/view/14788/12885>

Vannucci A., "The Controversial Legacy of 'Mani Pulite': A Critical Analysis of Italian Corruption and Anti-Corruption Policies", *Bulletin of Italian Politics* Vol. 1, No. 2, 2009, 233-64, free download: [http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media\\_140182\\_en.pdf](http://www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_140182_en.pdf)

