



## **SSC 401 Italian Politics & Society SYLLABUS – Spring 2018**

Lecturer: Prof. LORENZO CICCHI

**Class schedule: WEDNESDAY, 4:00 – 6:45 PM**

Office hours: WEDNESDAY, 6:45 – 7:45 PM (by appointment). Also available for Skype calls on FRIDAY, 9:00 – 11 :00 AM (by appointment), Skype username: CICCHIORE

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CV available here: <https://eui.academia.edu/LorenzoCicchi/CurriculumVitae>

**Mid-term exam:** Wednesday April 18<sup>th</sup> 2018, 4.00 – 6.45 PM

**Final exam:** May 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, exact day and time to be announced

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

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The course will 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.

Class discussion will be encouraged on current events in order to give the students a more concrete understanding of the way the system operates. 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 (i.e. the transition from a bipolar to a tripolar political system); election results' political consequences; demographic trends; economic 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 textbook and vice versa; students will be responsible for all material regardless of where presented. Hardcopies of readings handed out in class are always part of the required material; if needed, the lecturer is available to send a pdf version of them. Movies listed as “recommended” help to fully understand of the course’s subject matter; knowledge of them, however, will not be assumed in evaluating and grading tests and exams.

Active participation in class discussions is strongly encouraged. Questions and comments will always be welcome.

Students will be asked to write reports on the two movies indicated in the syllabus as “required”.

### **SUBMISSION OF REPORTS/PAPERS**

For in-class activities, submission must be done by handing in a HAND WRITTEN version of the report to the lecturer before the end of class. At-home activities have to be sent by EMAIL to the lecturer or, if the deadline allows so, handed out in class to the lecturer IN A PRINTED COPY. 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 seven performances, that assign a maximum of 100 points in total.

1-3. The first three take place in the **midterm exam** and weigh as follows: **home essay**: max 12 points; **in-class essay**: max 10 points; **multiple choice questions test**: max 8 points (30 points in total).

4. Before the final exam, one class is devoted to students’ presentation on a topic of their choice. The topic of the presentation is decided by the students under the guidance of the lecturer and broadly relates to an aspect related to Italian politics and society. Each presentation will be assigned a maximum of 10 points.

5-7. The final three take place in the **final exam** and weigh as follows: **home essay**: max 24 points; **in-class essay**: max 20 points; **multiple choice questions test**: max 16 points (60 points in total).

The mid-term exam will be based on knowledge taught in lessons held before the mid-term; the final exam will be based on the WHOLE program taught in class.

Final scores (max30/midterm + max10/presentation + max60/final) 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 only 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 could 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 could result in the failure of the course.

D) During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the lecturer. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies, or asking a pdf version to the lecturer.

E) Use of laptop computers or other electronic devices such as tablets in class is not permitted, unless previously approved by the lecturer.

F) Eating is NOT allowed in class. Water drinking is permitted (and recommended!)

G) Mobile phones must be **turned off** or placed on **silent mode** before the class starts, and in any case cannot be checked during the class.

### **POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL COSTS**

Theater admissions for one or two movies (approximately €10 each)

Transportation and admission costs for a possible site visit in Florence or nearby (to be determined, in any case no more than €25)

## **LOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Italy's political system: overview.

Class handouts (required)

Movie suggestion: "La Meglio Gioventù" (2003) by Marco Tullio Giordana (recommended)

### **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 chapter 1 (required)

Movie: "The Working Class Goes to Heaven" (1971) by Elio Petri (required)

Movie suggestion: "Rocco and his Brothers" (1960) by Luchino Visconti (recommended)

### **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: part of chapters 2-7 (required)

Movie suggestion: "Il Divo" (2008) by Paolo Sorrentino (recommended)

### **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, part of chapters 8-9 (required)

Movie suggestions: "La Mafia Uccide Solo D'Estate" (2013) by Pierfrancesco Diliberto, "Gomorra" (2008) by Matteo Garrone (recommended)

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

Changes in electoral behavior. Old and new actors. Actor change vs. structural change. 2016 referendum on Constitutional reform, 2018 general elections

Newspapers' articles on the 2016 Constitutional referendum and on the 2018 general elections given by the lecturer (required)

Movie suggestion: "Viva la libertà" by Roberto Andò (2013) (recommended)

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

EU impact on institutions, parties, policies and culture.

Newell: parts of chapters 10 (required)

Movie: "Quo Vado" (2016) by Gennaro Nunziante (recommended)

### **7. CONCLUSION. THE FUTURE OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM BETWEEN INSTITUTIONAL STALEMATE AND CHANGE**

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

Movie suggestion: "La Grande Bellezza" (2013) by Paolo Sorrentino (recommended)

## CLASS CALENDAR

| CLASS # | DAY  | SUBJECT   | READINGS, TEXTBOOK CHAPTER(S)                 |
|---------|--|---|---|
| 1       | Wednesday, February 28 <sup>th</sup>   | Course introduction & wrap-up to next week's general elections          | Slides  |
| 2       | Wednesday, March 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Election results, history and contemporary Italy                        | Slides, Ch. 1                                 |
| 3       | Wednesday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Focus: the 1960's economic boom   | Movie: "The Working Class Goes to Heaven"     |
| 4       | Wednesday, March 21 <sup>th</sup>  | Constitutional framework and multi-level democracy, supranational level | Slides, Ch. 2, 3 (partly)                     |
| 5       | Wednesday, March 28 <sup>th</sup>  | Social and interest groups, organized crime                             | Slides, Ch. 4, 5 (partly)                     |
| n/a     | March 30 <sup>th</sup> – April 8 <sup>th</sup>                               | <b>SPRING BREAK</b>   | n/a   |
| 6       | Wednesday, April 11 <sup>th</sup>  | Electoral systems   | Slides, Ch. 6, 7 (partly)                     |
| 7       | Wednesday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>   | All material covered so far                   |
| n/a     | Wednesday, April 25 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>NO CLASS – Italian Festa della Liberazione</b>                       | n/a   |
| 8       | Wednesday, May 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | Feedback on Mid-term, Welfare state, personal rights, foreign affairs   | Slides, Ch. 8, 9 (partly)                     |
| 9       | Wednesday, May 9 <sup>th</sup>   | European Union, information and sport system                            | Slides, Ch. 10 (partly)<br>newspaper articles |
| 10      | Wednesday, May 16 <sup>th</sup>  | Students' presentations   | n/a   |
| 11      | Wednesday, May 23 <sup>rd</sup>  | Focus: Italy in the world   | Movie: "Quo Vado?"                            |
| 12      | May 28 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> , exact day and time to be announced | <b>FINAL EXAM</b>   | All material of the course                    |

**\*NO CLASS on April 25<sup>th</sup> due to the Italian national holiday "Festa della Liberazione".**

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

TEXTBOOK: James L. Newell (2010), *The Politics of Italy. Governance in a normal country*, Cambridge University Press.

ADDITIONAL SHORT READINGS, on a maximum of one per class, may be assigned throughout the course by the lecturer. When that happens, the lecturer will provide them to students at the beginning of the class and discussed during it, or at end of the class, to be read during the week and discussed in the following class.