



# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM - FIRENZE

## **SSC 401 Italian Politics & Society SYLLABUS – Spring 2020**

Lecturer: Prof. LORENZO CICCHI

**Class schedule: TUESDAY, 4:30 – 7:15 PM**

Office hours: TUESDAY, 7:15 – 7:45 PM (by appointment).

Also available for Skype calls on FRIDAY, 9:00 – 11 :00 AM (by appointment), Skype username: CICCHIORE

E-mail: [lorenzo.cicchi@eui.eu](mailto:lorenzo.cicchi@eui.eu)

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

**Credits – 3 CSU semester units.**

**Location of Course** – California State University, Florence~Via G. Leopardi, 12~50121 Florence, Italy

**Mid-term exam:** Wednesday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2020, 4.30 – 6.00 PM

**Final exam:** May 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, exact day and time to be announced

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course focuses on Italy as a political system and the key features of Italian society, from the middle ages up to today. Focusing in particular on the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the post-WWII period, the course covers the main historical, economic and societal events that constitute the basis of a full understanding of what Italy is today. A particular attention is devoted to the institutional, cultural and political differences between Italy and the United States.

Class discussion on current events, in order to give the students a more concrete understanding of the way the system operates, is a central element of the course. In particular, students will be asked to discuss, under the guidance of the lecturer, the key topics covered during the course encouraging their critical questioning and analysis. The course consists of seven classes, where the lecturer alternates moments of teaching, readings and discussion; two classes where a movie is shown and then discussed in relation to the topics covered; and one class devoted to students' presentations.

CSU GE category – D3 or D5

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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

JOURNAL ARTICLE (required): Calossi, E. and Cicchi, L. (2018) "The Italian party system's three functional arenas after the 2018 election: the tsunami after the earthquake", *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, Volume 23, Issue 4, pp. 437-459.

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.

## **GENERAL COURSE 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.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students will learn 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.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of the semester students will have familiarized with Italy as a political system and in general with Italian society, and will be able to identify the main elements of differences from the American context. They will be able to better understand the political news and the key 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.

## **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-points (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-points (i.e., from 89 to 84) deduction from the total score, irrespective of the quality of the report.

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus and also ask me and/ or the Resident Director for more information.

## **GRADING**

Grades will be based on five performances, that assign a maximum of 100 points in total.

The first two take place in the **midterm exam** and weigh as follows: **in-class essay**, max 24 points; **multiple choice questions test**, max 12 points (36 points in total).

Thirdly, 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. According to the size of the class, topic, the preference of the students and the indication of the lecturer, the presentation can be individual or by group. Each presentation will be assigned a maximum of 10 points.

The final two take place in the **final exam** and weigh as follows: **home essay**, max 34 points; **multiple choice questions test**, max 20 points (54 points in total).

In terms of mid-term and final exams, the final score percentage is the following:

- mid-term exam: 36%
- presentation: 10%
- final exam: 54%

In terms of types of performance, the final score percentage is the following:

- 1x home essays: 34% (34 points in the final exam)
- 2x multiple choice: 32% (12 points in the mid-term exam, 20 points in the final exam)
- 1x in-class essay: 24% (24 points in the mid-term exam)
- 1x presentation: 10% (10 points)

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 grades will be assigned on the basis of a consideration of both the student's overall performance in class and his/her final score (max36/midterm + max10/presentation + max54/final) using the following translation scheme:

- 100-94	→	A
- 93-90	→	A-
- 89-87	→	B+
- 86-83	→	B
- 82-80	→	B-
- 79-77	→	C+
- 76-73	→	C
- 72-69	→	C-
- 68-67	→	D+
- 66-63	→	D
- 62-60	→	D-
- 59 and below	→	F

In any event a full A grade will be assigned exclusively to students whose total scores are 90 and above. The grade A+ can be awarded to outstanding students. 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.

**VERY IMPORTANT: Failure to complete all work and exams assigned in the course could result in failure of the class.**

### **Class Code of Conduct**

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.

### **Important: Exams**

You must attend all exams and quizzes as scheduled. Make-up exams are given only for valid reasons.

Please check your academic calendar BEFORE you book trips, flights and hotels.

### **Safety**

All students are expected to respect the safety and security policies in place at CSU Firenze. Students will be expected to follow the procedures outlined by CSU Firenze for the safe use of all spaces, including the upstairs. Refusal to respect these policies and procedures could lead to access restrictions or disciplinary actions.

### **Academic Dishonesty Will Not Be Tolerated.**

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus and also ask me and/ or the Resident Director for more information.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Upon identifying yourself to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluations. For more information, contact the Resident Director.

### **Copyright and Privacy Laws**

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used in any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.

### **Changes- Important**

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

## **ATTENDANCE AND OTHER POLICIES**

### **"3 – Hour" Attendance Policy 2019-2020 (for classes that meet once a week for 3 hours)**

Attendance 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.

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.

Dates of mid-term and final exams **cannot be changed** for individual travel plans or personal needs: Please check your academic calendar BEFORE you book trips, flights and hotels. Missing the midterm or the final exam could result in the failure of the course. Make-up exams are given only for valid reasons.

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.

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

Use of computer in class is restricted to oral presentations, unless previously approved by the professor.

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

## **POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL COSTS**

None.

## **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 suggestion: "Rocco and his Brothers" (1960) by Luchino Visconti, "The Working Class Goes top Heaven" (1971) by Elio Petri (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: "Il Divo" (2008) by Paolo Sorrentino (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, 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

Calossi, E. and Cicchi, L. (2018) "The Italian party system's three functional arenas after the 2018 election: the tsunami after the earthquake", *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, Volume 23, Issue 4, pp. 437-459 (required, provided by the lecturer)

Movie suggestion: "Il Caimano" by Nanni Moretti (2013) (required)

### **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)

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## CHANGES - IMPORTANT

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## CLASS CALENDAR

CLASS #	DAY	SUBJECT	READINGS, TEXTBOOK CHAPTER(S)
1	Tuesday, February 25 <sup>th</sup>	Course introduction	Slides
2	Tuesday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Historical background, contemporary Italy, constitutional framework	Slides, Ch. 1
3	Tuesday, March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Multi-level democracy, parties and party systems, supranational level	Slides, Ch. 2, 3 (partly),
4	Tuesday, March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Focus: the Italian “First Republic”	Movie: “Il Divo”
5	Tuesday, March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Social and interest groups, organized crime, sub-cultures	Slides, Ch. 4, 5 (partly)
6	Tuesday, March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Electoral systems, Welfare state	Slides, Ch. 6, 7 (partly)
7	Tuesday, April 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	All material covered so far
n/a	April 10 <sup>th</sup> – April 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	n/a
8	Tuesday, April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Feedback on Midterm, party system change	Slides, article by Calossi & Cicchi
9	Tuesday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Personal rights, foreign affairs	Slides, Ch. 8, 9 (partly)
10	Tuesday, May 5 <sup>th</sup>	European Union, information and sport system	Slides, Ch. 10 (partly) newspaper articles
11	Tuesday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Students’ presentations	n/a
12	Tuesday, May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Focus: the Italian “Second Republic”	Movie: “Il Caimano”
13	May 25 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> , day & time TBA	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	All material of the course