

*Course:* *Modern Italian politics and society*  
**Semester:** **Fall 2015**  
**Instructor:** **Dr Valentina Raparelli**  
**Class Location:** **St. Agostino**  
**Class Meeting Time:** **Tues/Thurs 9.00 am**  
**Office Hours:** **After/before class or by appointment**  
**Phone:** **+ 39 320 0265060**  
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### **Course description**

This course covers political and social changes in the recent history of Italy, focusing on current political life and society. A general historical introduction is provided. The first part of the course will examine Italian politics and society under the so called First Republic, with specific attention to the legacy of the “Cold War”, the transition to the Second Republic, and the current Grand Coalition Cabinet. Emphasis will be placed on the social and political background of Berlusconi's rise and, more in general, of the populist movements of the last twenty years. The course includes also an analysis of the following topics: the position of Italy in the European Community and the role of the Catholic Church – basically its influence on the social habits and more in general on Italian Politics. The last part of the course will point out the economic and social gap between the North and the South of the country, the transformation of the patriarchal family and the impact of feminism on Italian society. The course will pay particular attention to the social and political roots of organized crime (Mafia and Camorra), focusing on its interaction with the politics both at local and at national level, and to the transformation of Italy into a country of immigration.

The class format includes lectures, discussion, presentations, and audiovisual materials.

### ***COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES***

The course aims to give you:

- A good knowledge of Italian contemporary politics and society

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

- Acquire information about Italian political party system
- Acquire familiarity with the distinction between First and Second Republic
- Acquire information about Technocrat Cabinets and Grand Coalition Cabinets
- Acquire information about the Italian economy and the gap between the North and the South of the country
- Learn to identify the Catholic Church's influence on social habits and politics
- Acquire information about the social transformation brought by the Feminist Movement
- Learn to identify the consequences of the "privatization" of politics
- Learn to identify the threat to democracy caused by the combination of mass media power and anti-political populism
- Acquire information about the consequences on Italian economy and politics of the European integration process
- Acquire information about the social and political roots of Italian crime organization
- Learn to identify the origin of xenophobic and racist behaviour
- Acquire information about the transformation of Italy from a country of emigration to a country of immigration

## TEACHING METHODS

Course will be made of classroom lectures, documentaries and films.

Key concepts:

- First Republic
- Second Republic
- Technocrat Cabinet
- Grand Coalition Cabinet
- Dual State
- *Convention ad excludendum*
- Multipartitism
- "Strategy of tension"
- Emigration

- Immigration
- Xenophobia
- “Southern Question”
- Feminism
- Secularization
- Mafia and Camorra
- Freemasonry
- European integration
- Corruption
- Conflict of interests
- Populism

### TEXTBOOK

Reader Provided by the Lecturer on Pdf format

### Bibliography:

- M. Alacevich, *Postwar development in Italian the Mezzogiorno. Analysis and policies*, in *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, 2013;
- G. E. Bianchi, *Italiani nuovi o nuova Italia? Citizenship and attitudes towards the second generation in contemporary Italy*, in *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, 2011;
- S., Bernini, *Family politics: political rethoric and the transformation of family life in the Italian Second Republic*, in *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, 2008;
- F. Bordignon and L. Ceccarini, *Five Stars and Cricket. Beppe Grillo shakes Italian politics*, in *Political Studies*, 2013;
- M. Clark, *Modern Italy- 1875-1995*, Longman, 1996;
- I. Diamanti, L. Ceccarini, *Catholics and politics after the Christian Democrats: the influential minority*, in *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, 2007;
- J. Dickie, *Death of a “Leftist Fanatic”: Peppino Impastato, A history of Sicilian Mafia*, Hodder, 2007;
- F. Garelli, *The Church and Catholicism in contemporary Italy*, in *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, 2007;
- D. Garzia, *The Personalisation of Partisan Attachments in the Second Italian Republic*, *Bulletin of Italian Politics*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2011; G. Gribaudo, *Images of the South*, in D. Forgacs and R. Lumley, *Italian cultural studies*, Oxford University Press, 1996;
- P. Ginsborg, *A history of contemporary Italy*, Penguin, 1990;
- P. Ginsborg, *Italy and its discontents. Family, civil society, State*, Penguin, 2001;
- P. Ginsborg, *Silvio Berlusconi. Television, Power and Patrimony*, Verso, 2005;

S. Lupo, *The Allies and the Mafia*, in *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, 1997;  
V. Maher, *Immigration and social identities*, in *Italian cultural studies*, Oxford University Press, 1996;  
S. Z. Koff, S., *Italy: from the First to the Second Republic*, Routledge, 2000;  
L. Passerini, *Gender Relations*, in *Italian cultural studies*, Oxford University Press, 1996;  
G. Pasquino, *Post-electoral politics in Italy: institutional problems and political perspectives*, *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, Vol. 18, 2013;  
U. Santino, *Mafia and Mafia-type organizations in Italy*, Centro di documentazione "Giuseppe Impastato", 2003;  
D. Sassoon, *Contemporary Italy. Economy, Society and Politics since 1945*, Longman, 2006;  
R. Saviano, *Gomorra: Italy's Other Mafia*, 2007;  
J. Schneider, *Introduction: The Dynamics of Neo-orientalism in Italy (1848-1995)*, in *Italy's Southern Question*, Bloomsbury Academic, 1998;  
L. I. Shelley, *Mafia and the Italian State: the Historical Roots of the Current Crisis*, *Sociological Forum*, Vol.9, N. 4, 1994;

### **Supplementary Material**

Supplementary material to complement lectures will be given during classes.

### **Nature of Assignments:**

#### **Mid-Term Exam**

Test on arguments covered to this date.

#### **Pages Research Paper**

The purpose of writing a research paper is to clearly communicate what you have learned through your research. Your research for this course will focus on a topic among those indicated by Lecturer on a list to follow.

According to school policy you cannot present the same paper for two (or more) different courses. This will be evaluated with F grade.

The length of the paper should be between eight and twelve pages (2,500- 4,000 words), using double space, character size 12. Eight pages is the minimum for a paper to be accepted. Papers must be typed, written in decent style and include documentation of sources of information in proper footnotes.

- Handwritten papers are not accepted
- One letter grade will be deducted for the first week of delay in handing in the final paper

- Late papers may not be accepted
- Plagiarism will bring you “F” grade
- All papers should have a pertinent bibliography. Websites (accepted in a very limited number) must be cited as references.

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca) ) and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

### **Final Exam:**

Test on arguments covered during the entire course.

### **Assessment Policy**

Participation	10 %
Mid-Term Test	20 %
Research Paper	20 %
Oral Presentation	10%
Final Test	40 %

**Please note that according to faculty academic resolution for no reason students are allowed to take tests at dates different from those scheduled.**

**Students leaving the program early will not be granted credit.**

Attendance to all classes is essential and mandatory. Attendance to discussions and visits during field trip is also mandatory, and will be an essential part for the individual evaluation.

### **Attendance Policy**

Successful progress of the Program depends on the full cooperation of both students and faculty members. Most courses are taught by means of lectures and classroom discussion,

which means that regular attendance and active participation in classes are essential parts of the educational process.

Attendance is required in all courses. Students who accumulate more than the permitted number of absences, regardless of the reason, will receive an attendance failure (grade of F) unless they withdraw from the course.

The last day to withdraw from the course is two weeks prior to the final exam date. There is no remedy for attendance failures given during the last two weeks of classes.

In courses which meet twice per week, students may not have more than four absences.

In courses that meet once per week, students may not have more than two absences.

In summer sessions, due to the intensive nature of the classes, students may not have more than two absences.

Students are expected to be in class on time. Lateness of more than fifteen minutes will be counted as half an absence.

Students are expected to treat with maturity attendance and punctuality regulations for all components of the course

No excuse for absence will exempt a student from the completion of all work in a course.

The student assumes the responsibility for requesting assistance from faculty members for making up missed work.

During the first week of classes, if a student misses both sessions of a course that meets twice per week or the one session of a course that meets once per week, the instructor has the right to ask the Registrar to drop the student from the course.

N.B: The instructor reserves the right to modify meeting times when and if necessary for the educational benefit of the class or due to constraints imposed by unforeseen circumstances. Communication about such changes will be effected via group email messages or verbally in class prior to the date of the affected class. It is the individual student's responsibility to stay informed of any such changes.

### **Class Participation**

Students are expected to actively participate and contribute to class discussion. Participation grade requires more preparation and contribution, and if a student is not in class he/she is not contributing or receiving the inputs of his/her classmates and teacher.

Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Questions

- Commentaries and analysis on lecturer's and others' ideas
- Reading the assignments before class
- Contribution to the class group as a community

Class participation will count for 10%.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Class 1**

**Thurs, Oct 8**

#### **Introduction**

General overview of the main topics of the course

### **Class 2**

**Tues – Oct, 13**

#### **The First Republic**

- The party system during the First Republic : the era of proportional representation
- Italy and the Cold War
- The Christian Democrats
- The Communist Party and the so called "*conventio ad excludendum*"
- The "Strategy of tension"
- The "Dual State"

**Read Koff pp. 1-42; Cento Bull; pp. 232-245 from Sassoon; pp. 333-335, 381-387 from Ginsborg (1990); pp. 384-390 from Clark**

### **Class 3**

**Thurs– Oct 15**

#### **From the First Republic to the Second Republic**

- The crisis of the political system after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the judicial inquires of “Clean Hands”
- Berlusconi’s rise
- The disappearance of long standing traditional parties
- New parties and new (pre-election) coalitions
- The Northern League
- The “new” Right
- Toward the consolidation of the bipolar pattern of competition

**Read pp. 42-55 from Koff; pp. 179-194, 285-301 from Ginsborg (2001); pp. 408-426 from Clark**

#### **Class 4**

**Tues – Oct, 20**

**Film: *Il Divo*, by P. Sorrentino, Italy, 2008.**

#### **Class 5**

**Thurs– Oct, 22**

**Berlusconi’s Italy**

Documentary: “Citizen Berlusconi”

Discussion of the following topics:

- The mixture of public and private spheres. The conflict of interests
- Populism and cult of personality
- Berlusconi’s judiciary inquires

**Read pp. 28-174 from Ginsborg (2005); pp. 59-78 from Garzia**

#### **Class 6**

**Tues – Oct, 27**

**The fall of Berlusconi, Monti’s Cabinet and the 2013 General Elections**

- The fall of Berlusconi

- The “Technocrat Cabinet” of Mario Monti and the European economic crisis
- The 2013 General Elections: is this the end of the Second Republic?
- The “Five Stars Movement”
- The Grand Coalition Cabinet

**Read pp. 198-210 from Koff; Bosco and McDonnell; pp 466- 484 from Pasquino**

### **Class 7**

#### **The power of the Catholic Church**

**Thurs - Oct, 29**

- Relations between the Church and the Italian State
- Secularization
- Catholic Church’s influence on Italian social habits and politics

**Read 19-24 from Koff; pp. 149-160 from Sassoon; pp. 2-7 from Garelli; pp. 37-50 from Diamanti, Ceccarini**

### **Class 8**

**Tues - Nov, 3**

**Review**

### **Class 9**

**Thurs – Nov, 5**

**Midterm**

### **Class 10**

**Tues - Nov, 10**

**The “Southern Question”**

- Dualism of Italian economy: economic and social gap between the North and the South of the country
- “Orientalism in one country”
- Italian emigration
- Southern Italy today

Read pp. 348-353, 357-360, 472-489 from Clark; pp. 3-7 from Koff; pp- 90-112 from Alacevich; pp. 72-87 from Gribaudo; pp. 1-27 from Schneider

### **Class 11**

**Thurs – Nov, 12**

**Family, gender relations and the impact of feminism on Italian society**

- From the patriarchal family to the cultural revolution
- Italian women in the 1970s
- Combating Berlusconi's vision of women – documentary : "Women's body"  
(comment and discussion)

Read pp. 117-122 from Sassoon; pp.305-324 from Bernini; pp. 144-159 from Passerini; pp. 136-140 from Di Cori.

### **Class 12**

**Tues – Nov, 17**

**Crime organizations and their interaction with the national politics. Sicilian Mafia**

- A general overview on Italian crime organizations
- The origins of Sicilian Mafia and its transformation
- Mafia as a political subject
- Giuseppe Impastato: his actions, his murder, the investigation and the cover up

Read pp. 661-672 from L. I. Shelley; pp. 195-214 from Ginsborg (2001); pp. 97-100 from Koff ; Santino; pp. 21-33 from Lupo; pp. 344-355 from Dickie

### **Class 13**

**Thurs - Nov, 19**

#### **Film**

"One hundred steps", by M. T. Giordana. Italy, 2000

### **Class 14**

**Tues – Nov, 24**

**Neapolitan "Camorra"**

- The origins of Neapolitan Camorra and its organization
- Camorra and Saviano 's bestseller "Gomorra" (comment and discussion of some chapters from the book)

### **Read Saviano (Selection)**

#### **Class 15**

**Thurs – Nov, 26**

#### **Italy: a country of new immigration**

- Immigration and Italian economy
- Immigration and citizenship
- Immigration, Europe and the burden sharing issue

**Read pp. 1-14 from Bianchi; pp. 160-171 from Maher**

**Fri - Nov, 27**

#### **Fieldtrip to Rome**

#### **Class 16**

**Tues – Dec, 1**

**Film:** The green blood, Andrea Segre, 2010.

#### **Class 17**

**Thur – Dec, 3**

#### **Oral presentation**

#### **Class 18**

**Tues – Dec, 8**

#### **Review**

#### **Class 19**

**Thurs – Dec, 10**

#### **Final exam**

