



CIEE Global Institute – Rome

Course name:	SPQR: National Identity through Politics and Society
Course number:	HIST 3001 ROIT
Programs offering course:	Rome Open Campus (International Relations and Political Science Track)
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

What is Italy? Which are the defining features of Italian society? How do the Italians represent themselves and their past? In what ways has history shaped Italian contemporary society? Drawing on a broad range of primary texts and sources – historical documents, traveller's reports, newspaper articles, literary sources, films and TV programs, political and sociological studies - the course investigates key moments in Italian political, social and cultural history from the Renaissance to the modern day, with a special focus on their role and meaning in the construction of Italian identity.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion, students taking this course will be able to:

- Possess a deepened understanding of Italian society
- Possess a general knowledge of the social and political history of Italy since the birth of the Italian state, the ability to consider it in a critical perspective and to compare it with other national histories
- Develop an understanding of how Italian cultural productions reflected the political, social and historical landscape of Italy and contributed to – as well as being an expression of – the shaping of the Italian identity.
- Develop the ability to address critically, discuss and develop comparisons about ideas of political structures, national character, historical memory, tradition, identity, racism, political propaganda, migration, citizenship

Course Prerequisites

No specific prerequisites are needed for this course.



Methods of Instruction

This course is taught through short lectures supported by PowerPoint presentations, discussion of the assigned readings, and partner and group work. Active student participation is crucial for the success of the course, including careful preparation of the readings and other assigned homework.

Assessments and Final Grade

Quiz	10%
On-Site Presentation	15%
Written Assignment	15%
Final Presentation	20%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	20%

Course Requirements

Quiz

A quiz on week 3 will test the knowledge of the students about the first part of the program taught in class during week 1, week 2 and week 3, and learned through the readings assigned.

The professor will give more instructions about the quiz at the beginning of the course.

On-site presentations

Students will participate in a group presentation during the on-site classes. Further instructions will be provided by the professor.

Written assignment: Narrative of the presentation

Each student will write a short narrative/abstract of his/her part of the presentation. This text should be 600 words in length. Papers will be assessed on structure, clarity, critical analysis/argument, style and, where appropriate, referencing.

The narrative should be a brief description of the topic of your presentation based on your research for the in-class presentation. The written assignment should include a list of your sources.

Final presentations

Students will be organized into groups (3-4 persons each) to prepare a presentation on a specific topic which will be delivered during the last week of the course. Each student will choose a topic from those proposed by the professor during the first classes and will be grouped around thematic issues. Each member of the group must participate in preparing and delivering a portion of the presentation. Presentations will be assessed on four key areas: structure, content, critical analysis, communication skills.

The presentations should be prepared with the support of a PowerPoint or similar instrument (Prezi, etc..) prepared together by all the members of the group. The PowerPoint it's just an instrument to



better organize and deliver the presentation in front of the class.

Each group will have around 30 minutes to deliver their presentation in class. All presentations will be followed by a Q & A session.

Each member of a group will be graded individually.

The professor will give more instructions about the readings to prepare for these presentations.

Final Exam

Students will take a final exam at the end of the course. The exam (multiple choice test and short essays) will cover all topics discussed and analyzed in class.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences will lead to the following penalties:

Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed	Minimum Penalty
Up to 10%	Participation graded as per class requirements
10 – 20%	Participation graded as per class requirements; grade penalty & written warning
More than 20%	Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion



Weekly schedule

Please note this schedule may be subject to change.

Week 1	The Idea of Italy
Class 1:1	<p>Presentation of the course: aims, content, topic schedule, outcome, teaching techniques and forms of assessment. General background of pre-19thc. Italian history. The idea of Italy: Dante, Machiavelli.</p> <p>Readings: C. Duggan, <i>A Concise History of Italy</i>, Cambridge UP, 1994, Chapter 1</p>
Week 2	Italy now and then
Class 2:1	<p>The unification of Italy and its 'Questions' The unification of Italy, 1848-1860. Reshaping of a national character. The Italians on the Italians. The continuing problems of Church and State. Politics & Religion in Italy.</p> <p>Readings: C. Duggan, A. <i>Concise History of Italy</i>, Cambridge UP, 1994, chapter 5</p> <p>D. Gilmour, <i>The Pursuit of Italy: A History of a Land, its Regions and their Peoples</i>, Penguin, 2012, chapters 7 -8</p>
Class 2:2	<p>On-site class: Janiculum Hill, Risorgimento and the struggle for unification The Roman Republic of 1849. Mazzini, Garibaldi, Cavour, Victor Emmanuel. Belvedere del Gianicolo: the 69 articles of the constitution of the Roman Republic displayed on stone panels.</p> <p>Due date for On-site presentations</p>
Week 3	Fascism
Class 3:1	<p>Italian Emigration to US</p> <p>Readings: J.P. Cosco, <i>Imagining Italians. The Clash of Romance and Race in American Perceptions 1880-1910</i>, State University of New York Press, 2003, introduction, chapters 1, conclusion</p>
Class 3:2	The rise of Fascism



Italy and the Great War: an occasion to forge a national community and to complete the Risorgimento? From peasants to (dead) Italians. Trenches and decimation. Mussolini's coup. Mass-produced consensus: Italian society under Fascism. The New Italian Man. Modernization. The cult of the Duce. A nation in arms. The Ethiopian war and the Italian African Empire. Myth and propaganda: erotism and exoticism. The Racial Laws and the 'Defence of the Race'.

Readings: C. Duggan, A., *Concise History of Italy*, Cambridge UP, 1994, chapters 7-8

Quiz

Class 3:3

On-site class: Foro Italico

Formerly known as Foro Mussolini, the vast sport complex, inspired by the Roman forums of the Imperial Age, is a meaningful example of Fascist architecture and of symbolic celebration of the Fascist state.

Due date for On-site presentations

Week 4

The War

Class 4:1

From the 'parallel war' to the Liberation

Italian Nazi-fascist aggressions: France. Greece. USSR. The Italian experience of military occupation in the Balkans. The fall of Fascism. The Armistice: September 8, 1943. The Italian campaign. The Kingdom of the South and the R.S.I. *Resistenza* and the war of Liberation.

Readings: S. Neri Seneri, *A Past to Be Thrown Away? Politics and History in the Italian Resistance*, «Contemporary European History», Vol. 4, No. 3, (Nov., 1995), pp. 367-381

Class 4:2

On-site class: Italian Resistance

Museo Storico della Liberazione, via Tasso 145. Hosted in the same building used by the German SS to torture members of the Italian Resistance in the first half of 1944, the Museum records the period of German occupation in Rome in WW2.

Due date for On-site presentations

Week 5

Italy after WW2

Class 5:1

Italy and the Cold War

Italian foreign and domestic politics were heavily influenced by the



bipolar competition. With the largest Communist Party in Western Europe, Italy represented, in fact, one of the main ideological and political battlefield of the Cold War.

Readings: P. Ginsborg, *A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics 1943-1988*, Penguin, London & New York 1990, chapters 5-9-10

Class 5:2

Italy and Mafia

The rise of Mafia was intertwined with the history of Italy. This session will discuss the role of Mafia in shaping Italian politics and society, as well as the organization's role in the Italian culture.

Due date for submission of Written Assignment

Readings: Dickie J. *Cosa Nostra. A history of the Sicilian Mafia*. London: Hodder, 2007, chapters 9-10

Class 5:3

Italy after 1989

The press and the media: Italian landscape. Political use of television. Videocracy? Comedy & Politics. PD's government and the Five Stars' Movement. Italy and the European Union. Immigration and the growth of racism. Perspectives for the Italian young generations?

Readings: M. Ardizzoni, *Redrawing the Boundaries of Italianness: Televised Identities in the Age of Globalisation*, in *Social Identities: Journal for the Study of Race, Nation and Culture* Volume 11, Issue 5, 2005, pp.509-530

Week 6

Final Week

Class 6:1

Oral presentations and general discussion

Class 6:2

Final exam

Readings

Students are required to read all the handouts and readings provided by the professor. Handouts and readings will be indispensable for participating in class discussion and successfully preparing for the first quiz and the final exam.

D. Gilmour, *The Pursuit of Italy: A History of a Land, its Regions and their Peoples*, Penguin, 2012

M. Ardizzoni, *Redrawing the Boundaries of Italianness: Televised Identities in the Age of Globalisation*, in *Social Identities: Journal for the Study of Race, Nation and Culture* Volume 11, Issue 5, 2005, pp.509-530



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P. Ginsborg, *A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics 1943-1988*, Penguin, London & New York 1990

Further reading materials will be assigned on a week-by-week basis.