S Y L L A B U S

Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University

Course: CRP 3720, Contemporary Italy: Politics and Society
Location: Cornell in Rome
Semester: Spring 2017
Class Hours: 4:15-5:45 pm Tuesday/Thursday
Instructor: Gregory O. Smith, D.Phil. (Oxon.)
Email: gos2@cornell.edu
Office Hours: 3.45-4.15 pm Tuesdays or by appointment

I. Rationale:

This course provides background on contemporary Italian politics and society, as an essential foundation to students with various disciplinary interests, from planning to architecture, from the fine arts to sociology and anthropology.

The course provides a comprehensive survey of Italian society today, starting with Italy’s geography and the historical forces which shaped the nation. It discusses the tensions between north and south, and such broad features of Italian social life as community structure, urban development, and family forms. It then reviews selected institutional issues, such as gender, the system of education, problems of criminality and justice, economic reform, social class, religion and politics.

II. Course Aims and Objectives:

Aims

The course will provide students with an overview of contemporary Italy political and social issues. In a more general way, it will help them develop skills of analysis and exposition concerning some of the crucial social issues of our times. It will help them develop skills in argument, both in written and spoken form. It will also allow them to develop research skills in topics pertaining to the social sciences. Skills in written exposition are stressed, skills which are of fundamental relevance to any professional endeavor.

III. Format and Procedures:

This is chiefly a classroom based course, although some activities will be carried out in the field. Students are provided with background material for each session, which they are expected to assimilate before the relevant session so they can engage in constructive discussion. Attendance is required, as well as qualified participation which is only possible is students keep up with the readings, and actively engage in classroom discussion. Drawing on their own background in
contemporary world issues is encouraged. Respect for standards of scholarly debate is expected, as well as respect for the diversity of opinions expressed by the various course participants.

IV. My Assumptions

No specific disciplinary background is required to enroll in this course. The fundamental ingredients for successful completion are a strong general academic background and solid academic skills. Skills such as synthesis, analysis, comparing and contrasting, and problem solving will be particularly helpful. The capacity to assimilate academic material in a critical fashion is fundamental. It is assumed that students will have some background in general contemporary issues. It is further assumed that student will have sound skills in written and spoken exposition. Ability in independent research is also required. Students should have the capacity to research and write a research paper of high academic quality.

V. Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation policy: Unexcused absences will result in a lowering of the grade. The participation component of the grade is awarded based on the student’s sustained contribution to classroom activities supported by the timely completion of the course readings.

2. Course readings:
   (a) Required texts:

   (b) Other readings listed in the course schedule are available in electronic form through Blackboard.

3. Three credits

4. Additional requirements:
   (a) No additional equipment is required for the course.
   (b) Eventual course-related travel will only entail local transportation costs.

VI. Grading Procedures: Grades will be based on these elements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated bibliography</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation:</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination:</td>
<td>35%</td>
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In-class examinations involve mostly long essays for which study questions are provided beforehand. Grading for the essays is based on argument, presentation of factual material, and direct reference to relevant readings assigned in class. The argument should express a general point,
usually linked to one or more competing theoretical orientations. It is expected that the essay will be written in proper academic style.

A 10-page research project on a topic selected in consultation with the instructor is a required component. The project may take the form of a research paper on any topic pertaining to contemporary Italy. Possible paper topics range from mafia, to gender, to transformations in the family, to issues in government. All papers must be typed and must contain the appropriate scholarly devices in regard to citation and bibliography. Students are required to provide an outline of intended research and annotated bibliography by the midterm break. The outline will provide an indication of possible questions the paper intends to explore.

The final paper is due on May 4.

The conversion for points to letter grade is as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 to 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 to 93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 to 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 to 82</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 to 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 to 74</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75 to 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 to 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>59 to 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 to 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F+</td>
<td>58 to 56</td>
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**VII. Academic Integrity**

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. [http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html](http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html)

Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work, except in the cases of projects that are specifically structured as group endeavors.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students.

However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

**VIII. Accommodations for students with disabilities**

In compliance with the Cornell University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.
IX. Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1:

Jan 24  Introduction

Jan 26  History

Reading:

Week 2:

Jan 31  Geography

Reading:
2. Khouma pages 1-24

Feb 2  Session cancelled for Tuscany fieldtrip

Week 3:

Feb 7  Language and dialect
Difference between a language a dialect. Language dynamics. Formation of Italian. Persistence of dialects

Readings:
1. De Mauro, Tullio (1996) “Linguistic variety and linguistic minorities”, in David Forgacs and Robert Lumley, eds., Italian cultural studies : an introduction, pp. 88-

Feb 9  Southern Italian Values
Southern Italian regions. History of Latifondo farming. Models of underdevelopment as applied to Italy. World system theory. Fund for the South. Transformations of public policy on southern development after the 1990s. EU regional development policy.

Readings:
2. Khouma pages 24-48

Week 4:

Feb 14  Central Italian values

Reading:

**Feb 16**  Traditional family
Family as functional unit. Constituent elements. Variation in Italy across time and space. Demographic implications of family dynamics.

Readings:
2. Khouma pages 48-72

**Week 5:**

**Feb 21**  Contemporary family
Concept of dowry, patrimony, and other types of property linked to family. 1975 transformations in family law. Marriage and family in the postwar period. Current family policy issues.

Reading:

**Feb 23**  Migration

Reading:
2. Khouma pages 72-115

**Week 6:** Northern fieldtrip Feb 27 to Mar 5

**Week 7:**

Mar 7  Discussion of issues

Reading:
1. Khouma 115-138


**Week 8:**

Mar 11-19  SPRING BREAK
Week 9:

Mar 21 Cities
Background on Italian urban history. Historical forces shaping city form. Legal foundations of urban planning. Transformations in the early postwar period. Counterurbanization, urban sprawl and contemporary issues. Social housing.

Reading:

Mar 23 Cities

Readings:
2. Ginsborg, Ch. 1

Week 10:

Mar 28 Perceiving the periphery (*View La Ricotta*)
This is a short film in which Italy's great filmmaker, Pier Paolo Pasolini, explores the idea of the sacred in the context of Rome's periphery.

Reading:

Mar 30 Education

Reading:
2. Ginsborg, Ch. 2

Week 11:

Apr 4 Media
The Italian media system, including print and broadcast. Legal controls. Geography of media system. Issues in broadcast media. Cultural transformations.

Reading:
2. Ginsborg, Ch. 3
Apr 6 - Soccer

Readings:

Week 12:

Apr 11 Gender

Reading:

Apr 13 Gender
Models of Gender Construction. Contemporary Issues

Reading:
2. Ginsborg, Ch 4

Week 13:

Apr 18 Mafia
General overview of Italian Mafias. Political impact in early period. Responses under Fascism and early postwar period.

Reading:

Apr 20 Mafia

Reading:
1. Saviano, Roberto (2008) *Gomorra*, Ch.4
2. Ginsborg, Ch 5

Week 14:

Apr 25 Church
Overview of Church-State relations starting with Pius IX. The Social Doctrine of the Church. Relations with the Church under Fascism. Christian Democrats and the First Republic. Church-State relations under the Second Republic.

Reading:
Apr 27 Politics

Readings
2. Ginsborg Ch. 6

Week 15:

May 2 Politics
Current political situation and proposed institutional reforms.

Readings:

May 4 Discussion

Final Exam