



**Crossculture:  
Contemporary Italy. An Introduction  
HIST\_101**

**Instructor:** Roberto Fineschi: [r.fineschi@sienaschool.com](mailto:r.fineschi@sienaschool.com)

**Office Hours:** by appointment

## **Course Description**

The class introduces students to Italian contemporary history, politics, culture, economics, and religion by providing them with basic knowledge on different aspects of its development in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Class meets twice a week. The first meeting is dedicated to answer questions and discuss points about the assigned materials (starting with the second class). In the second meeting the teacher introduces new topics and provides materials to be studied for the next meeting.

## **Prerequisites**

No particular prerequisite. Familiarity with historical and political studies.

## **Course Hours**

The course meets twice a week for a total of 3 hours a week. Total hours: 45. Suggested Credits: 3

## **Student Learning Expectations**

A deeper comprehension of contemporary Italy in all its aspects.

## Course Outline

### Week by Week Description:

<i>Week I</i>	<b>History 1</b> Premises. Italy before Italy Liberal Italy and Fascism. <i>Read: 1) pp. 17-43 (Corner, State and society, 1901-1922), and pp. 105-137 (Knox, Fascism: ideology, foreign policy, and war).</i>
<i>Week II</i>	<b>History 2</b> Italy after the World War II <i>Read: 2) 95-117 (Allum, Italian society transformed).</i>
<i>Week III</i>	<b>Religion 1</b> Italy and Catholic Church. Before World War II <i>Read: 1), pp. 44-61 (Kelikan, The Church and Catholicism)</i>
<i>Week IV</i>	<b>Religion 2</b> Italy and Catholic Church. After World War II <i>2) pp. 133-152 (McCarthy, The Church in post-war Italy).</i>
<i>Week V</i>	<b>Economy</b> <i>1) pp. 62-82 (De Cecco, The economy from Liberalism to Fascism). 2) pp. 42-68, (Zamagni, Evolution of economy).</i>
<i>Week VI</i>	<i>Review and Midterm Exam.</i>
<i>Week VII</i>	<b>Society 1</b> Italian people under Fascism <i>Read: 1) pp. 175-195 (Wanrooij, Italian society under Fascism).</i>
<i>Week VIII</i>	<b>Society 2</b> Sport and popular culture in post-war Italy. <i>Read: 2) pp. 171-182 (Pivato, Sport), and pp. 183-196 (Gundle, Memory and Identity: popular culture in post-war Italy).</i>
<i>Week IX</i>	<b>Society 3</b> The Mafia <i>Read: 2) pp. 153-170 (Lupo, The Mafia).</i>
<i>Week X</i>	<b>Society 4</b>

High culture in contemporary Italy

*Read: 197-213 (Gordon, Impegno and the encounter with modernity: 'high' culture in post-war Italy).*

Week XI

Final review

**Essay due**

Week XII

Exam Week

### **Assignments:**

Every week students have to study the materials assigned by the teacher. They will be asked to write papers or personal comments and present those in class

### **Textbook and required materials:**

- 1) Adran Lyttelton (ed.), Liberal and Fascist Italy 1900-1945, Oxford University Press (selected chapters).
- 2) McCarthy P. (ed.), Italy since 1945, Oxford University Press, New York, 2000 (selected chapters).

### **Recommended optional materials/references:**

Bokenkotter Th., A Concise History of the Catholic Church, Doubleday, New York, 1990  
 Bosworth R. J. B., Mussolini, Arnold, London, 2002  
 Clark M., Modern Italy, Longman, Edinburgh, 1996  
 Foot J., Modern Italy, Palgrave, Basingstoke, 2003  
 Ginsborg P., A History of Contemporary Italy, Penguin, London, 1990  
 Mack Smit D., Modern Italy, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 1997

## **Grading System**

Participation	20 %
Midterm test	25 %
Research paper	25 %



Final test

30 %

\* Final test consists of some question (both multiple-choice and open questions) on all the topics presented in class.

\* Students are asked to produce 1 research papers of 8-10 pages. This must deal with one of the topics analyzed during the class. Paper subject (8-10 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman 12, standard margins, MS Word) needs to be approved by professor within the the 9<sup>th</sup> week. Both have to include footnotes and bibliography. Plagiarism will result automatically in the grade of "F" and any exception will result in a lowering of your grade.

## **Course Policy**

### ***Attendance***

Students are expected to attend all lectures and excursions and actively participate in classroom discussions. Only one absence per course is allowed during the duration of the program. All other absences are considered unexcused. Each unexcused absence will incur an academic penalty of 10% off the overall grade of the course missed. Roll is taken and 3 tardies count as an unexcused absence. A student having more than 3 unexcused absences will earn an "F" in his/her course work and if he/she accumulates such absences in more than one course, will be dismissed from the program.