



HS 250 POST-WAR ITALY: THE MAKING OF A DIFFICULT DEMOCRACY

IES Abroad Rome

DESCRIPTION: The course is an introduction to Italian history after World War II. After 1945, Italy (now a democratic republic) left behind the structures and values of its traditional peasant society and, with the 'economic miracle', entered into a modern consumer society: the majority of Italians were now free from poverty and illiteracy and enjoyed the benefits of a modern welfare State. In 1991, Italy could even (wrongly) boast to be the fifth economic world power, overtaking the UK. However, democracy did not develop with the Italian economy. Among Western countries, Italy was probably the most affected by the Cold War. External forces regularly threatened democratic stability (the Italian Communist Party and the neo-Fascist MSI were the largest in the West of their kind) and gave rise to a sort of 'civil cold war'. Consequently Italian democracy was, at the same time, blocked and feeble. Italians experienced the most stable political system in the world, with the same party - the Christian Democrat Party (DC), in power from 1945 until 1992. However, governmental stability was low and representative democracy continuously at risk. The duration and impact of students' and workers' protest were among the more imposing in the world; threats of a coup d'état frequent; the level of diffused political violence and terrorism extremely high. In the 1970s Italy seemed destined to be the first western democracy to have a Communist participation in government. Furthermore, the impossibility of any political alternation in power favoured one of the worst evils of Italian life: the mixture between party politics and the public economy and consequent risks of corruption. Deeply conditioned by the Cold War, the Italian political system did not survive its end. It's no surprise that, since then, such a difficult democracy has not yet found stability.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures and class discussions
- Multimedia presentations

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Class participation - 10%
 - Midterm exam - 30%
 - Book review paper - 30%
 - Final exam - 30%
-
- Class participation: Students will have to participate actively in class discussions, demonstrating the ability to make connections with the readings assigned for each session.
 - In Class Mid-term exam: Students will select from a list of essay prompts and write on the subject of their choice 2 short essays.
 - Book review paper: Students will read a book chosen with the instructor in a list; they will have to make a presentation in class and answer questions from classmates and instructor; then they will have to write a paper about it (12-15 pages).
 - In Class Final exam: Formatted as the Midterm, but will focus on the readings and topics analysed in the second half of the semester.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Recognize the main phases of Italian modern history;
- Identify the main personalities in the history of the Italian republic;
- Trace the origins, features and problems of Italian democracy;
- Identify the main different interpretations of Italian democracy;

Global brilliance begins here.®

Institute for the International Education of Students
Africa | Asia Pacific | Europe | Latin America



- Define characteristics and issues of the Cold War;
- Reflect on the role of Catholicism in modern society;
- Understand the roots of Communism and of its following in Western Europe;
- Reflect on Americanization and anti-Americanism.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is mandatory for all IES classes, including field studies. If a student misses more than two classes in this course, 2 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical emergencies or family emergencies. IES will only consider extreme emergency cases and will strictly adhere to this policy.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Readings
Week 1 Section 1: Section 2:	Overview of course The legacy of Fascism and war	
Week 2 Section 1: Section 2:	The political structure of post-war Italy 1946: Italy becomes a Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventresca. From Fascism to Democracy, Chapter 1, pp. 26-60 • Ginsborg, Paul. A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics, 1943-1988. Chapter 1 'Italy at War', pp. 8-38 and Chapter 2 'Resistance and Liberation', pp. 39-71
Week 3 Section 1: Section 2:	The new Democratic Constitution A country dramatically divided by the Cold War: the 1948 elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellwood. "The 1948 Elections in Italy: a Cold War Propaganda Battle", pp.19-33 • Ginsborg, Paul. A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics, 1943-1988. Chapter 3 'The Post-war Settlement, 1945-8', pp. 72-120
Week 4 Section 1: Section 2:	The age of Alcide De Gasperi (1948-1953) The 'civil cold war': Catholics vs. Communists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollard. 'The Vatican, Italy and the Cold War', pp. 103-117 • Del Pero. "The United States and 'Psychological Warfare' in Italy, 1948-1955, pp. 1304-1334 • Ginsborg, Paul. A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics, 1943-1988. Chapter 5 'Christian Democracy in State and Society', pp. 141-185 and Chapter 6 'Left-wing Politics and the Working-class Movement in the 1950s', pp. 186-209
Week 5 Section 1:	1951-1960: The economic miracle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zamagni. 'Evolution of the Economy', pp. 42-68 • Ginsborg, Paul. A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics, 1943-1988. Chapter 7 'The

Section 2:	Americanization and anti-Americanism in Italy	Economic miracle: Rural Exodus and Social Transformation', pp. 210-252
Week 6		
Section 1:	General Review	
Section 2:	Midterm Exam	
Week 7		
Section 1:	Catholic and Socialist Reformism: The birth of the Welfare State in Italy (1957-1965)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Della Porta and Tarrow. "Unwanted Children: Political Violence and the Cycle of Protest in Italy, 1966–1973", pp. 607-632 Ginsborg, Paul. A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics, 1943-1988. Chapter 8 'The Centre-left, 1958-1968', pp. 254-297
Section 2:	Social and cultural protest in the 1960s	
Week 8		
Section 1:	The Italian 1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hilwig. 'The Italian Student Revolts, 1967-68', pp. 12-33 Ginsborg, Paul. A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics, 1943-1988. Chapter 9 'The Era of Collective Action, 1968-1973', pp. 298-347
Section 2:	The New Left and the 'strategy of tension'	
Week 9		
Section 1:	The first Communist Party at power in the West? 'Euro-communism' as a new Communism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weinberg, Leonard, and William Lee Eubank. The Rise and Fall of Italian terrorism, pp. 31-76 Ginsborg, Paul. A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics, 1943-1988. Chapter 10 'Crisis, Compromise and the Anni di Piombo, 1973-1980', pp. 348-405
Section 2:	From protest to terrorism: the "years of lead" (1968-1978)	
Week 10		
Section 1:	The new society of the 1980s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cento Bull, Anna, and Mark Gilbert. The Lega Nord and the Northern Question in Italian Politics. Chapter 1, pp. 9-41 Ginsborg, Paul. A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics, 1943-1988. Chapter 11 'Italy in the 1980s', pp. 406-424
Section 2:	An Italian Mitterand? The years of Bettino Craxi (1980-1987)	
Week 11		
Section 1:	The crisis of the 'first Republic': Cold War's end, federalism, overturning of the electoral system, corruption scandals (1989-1992)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shin, Michael E., and John A. Agnew. Berlusconi's Italy: Mapping Contemporary Italian Politics. Chapter 2, pp. 15-45
Section 2:	Epilogue: The political earthquake of the 1994 elections and Silvio Berlusconi's new political phenomenon	

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Ginsborg, Paul. A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics, 1943-1988. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.
- Reader:
 - Ventresca, Robert Anthony. From Fascism to Democracy: Culture and Politics in the Italian Election of 1948. University of Toronto Press, 2004. Chapter 1: 'The Legacy of Fascism', pp. 26-60.
 - Ellwood, David W. "The 1948 Elections in Italy: A Cold War Propaganda Battle." *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* 13.1 (1993), pp. 19-33.
 - Pollard, John. 'The Vatican, Italy and the Cold War', in Kirby, Dianne, (ed.). Religion and the Cold War. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2003, pp. 103-117.
 - Zamagni, Vera. 'Evolution of the Economy', in McCarthy, Patrick (ed.). Italy Since 1945 (Short Oxford History of Italy). New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2000, pp. 42-68.
 - Del Pero, Mario. "The United States and "Psychological Warfare" in Italy, 1948-1955." *The Journal of American History* 87.4 (2001): 1304-1334.
 - Della Porta, Donatella, and Sidney Tarrow. "Unwanted Children: Political Violence and the Cycle of Protest in Italy, 1966-1973." *European Journal of Political Research* 14.5-6 (1986): 607-632.
 - Hilwig, Stuart J. 'The Italian Student Revolts, 1967-68', in Id. Italy and 1968: Youthful Unrest and Democratic Culture. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, pp. 12-33.
 - Weinberg, Leonard, and William Lee Eubank. The Rise and Fall of Italian terrorism. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1987, pp. 31-76.
 - Cento Bull, Anna, and Mark Gilbert. The Lega Nord and the Northern Question in Italian Politics. Palgrave, 2001. Chapter 1, pp. p. 9-41.
 - Shin, Michael E., and John A. Agnew. Berlusconi's Italy: Mapping Contemporary Italian Politics. Temple University Press, 2008. Chapter 2, pp. 15-45.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Aga-Rossi, Elena, and Victor Zaslavsky. Stalin and Togliatti: Italy and the Origins of the Cold War. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2011.
- Coppa, Frank J. and Margherita Repetto-Alaia (eds.). The Formation of the Italian Republic: Proceedings of the International Symposium on Postwar Italy. New York: P. Lang, 1993.
- De Grand, Alexander. The Italian Left in the Twentieth Century: A History of the Socialist and Communist Parties. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989.
- Di Scala, Spencer M., (ed.). Renewing Italian Socialism: Nenni to Craxi. New York, Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Di Scala, Spencer, (ed.). Italian Socialism: Between Politics and History. Amherst (Mass.): Univ of Massachusetts Press, 1996.
- Drake, Richard. Apostles and Agitators: Italy's Marxist Revolutionary Tradition. Harvard: Harvard University Press, 2009.
- Drake, Richard. The Aldo Moro Murder Case. Harvard: Harvard University Press, 1995.
- Edwards, Phil. More work! Less pay: rebellion and repression in Italy, 1972-77. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2009.
- Duggan, Christopher, and Christopher Wagstaff. Italy in the Cold War: Politics, Culture and Society, 1948-58. Washington, DC: Berg Publishers, 1995.
- Ferraresi, Franco. Threats to democracy: The Radical Right in Italy after the War. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012.
- Foot, John. Italy's divided memory. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.
- Gardner, Richard N. Mission Italy: On the Front Lines of the Cold War. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.
- Gehler, Michael, and Wolfram Kaiser (eds.). Christian Democracy in Europe since 1945. London: Routledge, 2004.
- Ginsborg, Paul. Italy and its Discontents 1980-2001. Harmondsworth, UK: Penguin, 2003.
- Harper, John Lamberton. America and the Reconstruction of Italy, 1945-1948. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

- Gundle, Stephen. Between Hollywood and Moscow: The Italian Communists and the challenge of mass culture, 1943–1991. Duke: Duke University Press, 2000.
- Hellman, Stephen. Italian Communism in Transition: The Rise and Fall of the Historic Compromise in Turin, 1975-1980. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Hilwig, Stuart J. Italy and 1968: Youthful Unrest and Democratic Culture. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.
- Kaiser, Wolfram. Christian Democracy and the Origins of European Union. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
- Kertzer, David I. Comrades and Christians: Religion and political struggle in Communist Italy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980.
- Kertzer, David I. Politics & Symbols: The Italian Communist Party and the Fall of Communism. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1996.
- Lange, Peter, George Ross, and Maurizio Vannicelli. Unions, Change and Crisis: French and Italian Union Strategy and the Political Economy, 1945-1980. London: Allen & Unwin, 1982.
- Lumley, Robert. States of Emergency. Cultures of Revolt in Italy, 1968-78. New York, NY: Verso, 1990.
- McCarthy, Patrick (ed.). Italy Since 1945 (Short Oxford History of Italy). New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Miller, James Edward. The United States and Italy, 1940-1950: The Politics and Diplomacy of Stabilization. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986.
- Pombeni, Paolo, and Giuliana Nobili Schiera (eds.). "Alcide de Gasperi: 1881–1954 – A political life in a troubled century." *Modern Italy* (Special Issue) 14.4 (2009): 379-397.
- Sassoon, Donald. Contemporary Italy: Politics, Economy and Society since 1945. London: Longman, 1986.
- Sassoon, Donald. The Strategy of the Italian Communist Party: From the Resistance to the Historic Compromise. St. Martin's Press, 1981.
- Serfaty, Simon, and Lawrence Gray (eds.). The Italian Communist Party: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1980.
- Spotts, Frederic, and Theodor Wieser. Italy: A Difficult Democracy: a Survey of Italian Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986.
- Tarrow, Sidney. Democracy and Disorder: Politics and Protests in Italy, 1965-1975. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1989.
- Ventresca, Robert Anthony. From Fascism to Democracy: Culture and Politics in the Italian Election of 1948. University of Toronto Press, 2004.
- Woolf, Stuart J. (ed.). The Rebirth of Italy, 1943-1950. London: Longmans, 1972.
- Zamagni, Vera. The Economic History of Italy 1860-1990. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.