

# CET Syllabus of Record



**Program:** CET Florence  
**Course Title:** History of Modern Italy  
**Course Code:** FL/ITLS 273  
**Total Hours:** 45  
**Recommended Credits:** 3  
**Suggested Cross Listings:** History  
**Language of Instruction:** English  
**Prerequisites/Requirements:** None

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## Description of the Course

This course covers Italian history from unification (1861) to the present day. Special emphasis is given to the role of Italy in World War II, Fascism, the birth of the First Republic and the decades leading up to the Second Republic. The latter part of the course focuses on contemporary Italy, from 1980 to the present day, and on the role of Italy in the European context.

## Objectives

Students acquire a significant understanding of 1) contemporary Italy and 2) the country's modern and recent history, social developments and culture. The courses approach is multi-disciplinary and uses methods from primarily the field of history but also sociology, geography, anthropology and political science.

The course and its contents guide students in their own cross-cultural comparison of Italian and American attitudes and culture.

## Course Method and Requirements

In this course, lectures combine with readings and films (taking advantage of Italy's magnificent post-War cinema). Class time is set aside for discussion: students are expected to actively participate in these sessions.

Course requirements include regular attendance, midterm and final examinations, in-class presentations, one paper, and active participation in and contribution to all discussions. Examinations will include essay questions and historically significant terms. Students are expected to complete the readings listed for each lesson prior to each class meeting time (according to the Outline of Course Content), and to participate in class discussions. Reading assignments are indicated in the Outline of Course Content and generally consist of 20 to 40 pages for each class session.

## Methods of Evaluation

- Attendance and Participation 20%
- Midterm Examination 20%
- Paper 20%
- Presentations 20%

## CET Syllabus of Record

- Final Examination 20%

### Primary Texts

A course reader will be made available. Course reader contents:

Banfield, E. *The Moral Basis of a Backward Society*. Glencoe, Free Press.

Ginsborg, P. *A History of Modern Italy: Society and Politics, 1943-1988*. London, Penguin.

Ginsborg, P. *A History of Contemporary Italy: Society and Politics, 1943-1988*. London, Penguin.

Ginsborg, P. *Italy and Its Discontents: 1980-2001*. London, Penguin.

Putnam, R. *Making Democracy Work.: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton, Princeton University Press.

Smith, D. M. *Modern Italy, a Political History*. University of Michigan Press.

Koff, S. Z. and Koff, S. D. *Italy: From the 1st to the 2nd Republic*. Routledge.

Bull, M. and Rhodes, M, Eds. *Crisis and Transition in Italian Politics*. Routledge.

### Outline of Course Content

Note: Fall/Spring students cover approximately 1 topic every 1 to 2 weeks. During the summer, when class periods are longer, students cover just over 1 topic per week.

TOPIC 1 – Making Italy in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

The Italian Risorgimento and Unification: four steps. The prospects for a united Italy after Unification.

TOPIC 2 – Making Italy in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Italian nationalism: its origins, its development and its current state. The early Catholic and Socialist movements and their contribution to national identity.

TOPIC 3 - Fascism

Origins and movement. Consolidation of Dictatorship. Mussolini and his aspirations for the Nation and the Italians.

TOPIC 4 – Making Italians: the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Civic life and the dictatorship: life and society under Fascism. Italian society and the Italians during the War, 1940-1945.

TOPIC 5 – Italy in WWII

Italian resistance. The Decline of the Fascist regime

TOPIC 6 – Post War Italy

The birth of the Republic. The Italian institutional system. Issues in the new political multiparty system.

TOPIC 7 – Post War Society

From reconstruction to an “Economic Miracle”: the transformation of Italy and the creation of a national culture. The Southern Question.

## **CET Syllabus of Record**

### TOPIC 8 – Church and State

Relations between the Catholic Church and the Italian State since 1945. Participation and belief in Italy today.

### TOPIC 9 – From the First to the Second Republic

The reaction to the endemic corruption of the Italian political elites. Silvio Berlusconi: a new protagonist on the Italian political scene.

### TOPIC 10 – Contemporary Italy

Italy within the EU framework from the 1990s to the present day.