

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Florence
Course Title: Italian and European Politics
Course Code: FL/POLI 275
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Suggested Cross Listings: Italian Studies, Political Science
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: None



Description

This course explores the dynamics of Italian and European politics since the end of the Second World War. The preliminary aim of the course is to offer a historical survey. After briefly presenting the main lines in Italian and European politics from the end of the 19th century to the Second World War, the course turns to investigate the development of Italian politics (from the first Republic to the current government) and the European integration (since the foundation of the European communities in 1957, to the last wave of enlargement in 2007). The main focus of the course is to look at specific political institutions (such as the party system, the Parliament, the Executive, the Courts, etc.) at both Italian and European levels. Political culture and the territorial distribution of power are also investigated.

Objectives

During this course, students gain:

- A general but thorough understanding of the leading institutions in Italian and European politics
- The tools by which to question how and the extent to which European policies influenced the dynamics of Italian politics, and vice versa
- The skills by which to examine the Americanization of Italian and European politics, as well as the positioning of the latter two in the global context
- Familiarity with parallels between the two major political paradigms: Western Democracy and Eastern Popular Democracy (Communism)

Course Requirements

Most classes consist of lectures with some interactive work required. Students are encouraged to ask questions and express personal opinions. Open debates are periodically organized. Students are highly encouraged to take detailed notes, as lectures provide the base of information included on exams. Students are expected to thoroughly read all assignments before coming to class. Readings average 20 pages per class.

Students complete one oral presentation on a topic of their choosing. Each talk should be about, but not more than, 45 minutes long. Students may choose the format they prefer: posters and multimedia presentations are most welcome.

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Students should transform their oral presentation into a paper of about 2,000 words. The paper should include clear references to at least two secondary academic sources.

There are two exams—one midterm and one final. Each consists of two parts: short answer questions and essay.

Finally, students are required to submit “quick writes”. These writing quizzes will be given at the start of some classes in order to ensure that students complete all reading assignments.

Methods of Evaluation

10%	Class attendance and participation
10%	Quick writes
15%	Oral presentation
20%	Midterm exam
15%	Paper
30%	Final exam

Primary Texts

Hay, Colin & Menon, Anand (editors), *European Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Bull, Martin J. Newell, James L., *Italian Politics. Adjustment under Duress*, Polity Press, Cambridge and Malden, 2005.

Furlong, Paul, “Institutional Fragmentation in Parliamentary Control: the Italian Case”, in *The Journal of Legislative Studies*, vol. 10, nos. 2–3, Summer–Autumn, 2004, pp. 174–192.

Koff, Zondra Z. and Koff, Stephen P., *Italy from the First to the Second Republic*, London and New York, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2000.

Morata, Francesc, “The Italian Presidency of the European Union: An ‘Abnormal’ Semester?”, in Fabbrini, Sergio and Sala, Vincent della (editors), pp. 115–132.

Supplementary Texts

Cotta, Maurizio and Verzichelli, Luca, *Italy: From Constrained Coalitions to Alternating Governments*, Universita Degli Studi di Siena, Dipartimento di Scienze Storiche, Giuridiche, Politiche e Sociali, Working Paper, no. 26, 1996.

Fabbrini, Sergio and Sala, Vincent della (editors), *Italian Politics. Italy between Europeanization and Domestic Politics*, Istituto Cataneeo, Berghahn Books, New York, Oxford, 2004.

Farnetti, Paolo, *The Italian Party System (1945–1980)*, edited by S- E. Finer and Alfio Mastropaolo, European Party Systems Series, Frances Pinter (Publishers), London, 1985. Chap. 4: “Polarized Pluralism, Centripetal Pluralism and the Future Alignment: The Italian Post-war experience in perspective.”, pp. 181–189.

Ginsborg, Paul, *Italy and Its Discontents. 1980–2001*, Penguin Books, 2001.

Krepel Amie, “The Impact of parties on legislative output in Italy”, in *European Journal of Political Research*, 31: 327–350, 1997.

Schröter, Harm G., *Americanization of the European Economy. A Compact Survey of American Economic Influence in Europe since the 1880s*, Springer, 2005.

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Wallace, Helen and Wallace, William (editors), *Policy-making in the European Union*, Oxford University Press, 2000 (fourth edition).

Outline of Course Content

Note: Fall/spring students cover approximately one topic every two weeks. During the summer, when class periods are longer, students cover approximately one topic per week.

TOPIC 1 - *An Historical Overview*

Reconstruction of Italy after WWII (1945 – 1990): Society, Politics and Economics.
From the Marshall Plan through the “Mani Pulite” era.

TOPIC 2 - *Italy: From the First Republic to Current Government*

The definition of First Republic and the birth of the Second Republic (1992 – 2010).
The Italian institutional setting.
Definition of Executive and Legislative powers: Parliament and Cabinet.

TOPIC 3 – *An Historical Overview of the European Union (1957 – 2002)*

Rome Treaties; Maastricht Treaties; the birth of the Economic Monetary Union.

TOPIC 4 – *The European Institutional Setting*

The Council, the Commission, the Parliament and the Central Bank.

TOPIC 5 – *Distribution of Power*

Centre (EU) – Periphery (Member States).
How is the power distributed?
How does Italy interact with the EU?

TOPIC 6 – *EU and Member States: the Challenges to Integration*

EU policies and national policies.
How do the EU policies influence Italy?
EU as a Federal State?

TOPIC 7 – *Building a European Identity: Dream or Nightmare?*

Enlargement to new countries: problems and challenges.
The EU under the eyes of the international community.