

**ITA 3500 (0793): Italian Civilization**  
(MWF, 7th period, FLI 115)

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Office hours: MTW, 4<sup>th</sup> period  
or by appointment

This course focuses on key aspects of Italian culture from unification to modern days. Issues addressed will include the problems left unsolved by unification and Fascism, such as the North and South divide, Fascism and the democratic institutions, but also the current European immigration crisis. Our readings and discussions will be inspired by many disciplines including history, literature and cinema. The course is taught in Italian.

**Learning Outcomes:** After completing this course, students will be able to

- identify the key stages in modern Italian history
- understand and discuss important dimensions of the contemporary cultural context in Italy
- read texts in Italian and watch Italian films informed by knowledge of Italian cultural values

**Textbooks, Readings and Films:** Readings are selected from several sources and are posted on Canvas. *Profilo di storia italiana per stranieri* is also on reserve in the Library West. Many films are available on Youtube, Amazon, Netflix or Kanopy. You will find the following films also on reserve at the Library West:

*Il Gattopardo*

*Una giornata particolare*

*Roma, città aperta*

*La vita è bella*

*Divorzio all'italiana*

*La meglio gioventù*

*Il Divo*

*Fuocoammare*

*Habemus papam*

**2 Exams (30%):** They include short answer and essay questions covering the main themes discussed.

**Presentation (20%):** During this semester, you will have two presentations. One will be an assigned reading or a film for which you will lead the class discussion. You will be responsible for: explaining the relevant aspects of the assignment; connecting them to the broader Italian cultural context and to the

themes discussed in class; and expressing your personal, critical opinion of the material. For the second presentation, you must choose a topic among the issues discussed in class that has captured your interest.

**2 Papers (20%):** You will write 2 papers in Italian of 3 pages. They should reflect your critical insights about a specific topic studied in class. You will be responsible for the topic. Papers will be graded on content (80%) and language (20%) according to the following criteria:

**GRADE A PAPER** applies only to an exceptional piece of work which states an insightful, plausible and clear thesis. The student poses new ways to think about the material and the paper flows logically, it is original and challenging.

**GRADE B PAPER** The paper is promising, but lacks originality and in insight, although the student has developed his/her ideas and thesis. The paper is well organized and demonstrates an above-average knowledge of the topic. Good Quality (B-), very good (B), excellent (B+).

**GRADE C PAPER** applies to papers which are basically competent, but underdeveloped and it fulfills the requirements at a foundation level. The thesis is unclear and vague, and it provides little around which to structure the paper. The analysis is weak and there is no attempt to relate evidence to argument. C- applies to a paper that needs help.

**GRADE D PAPER** is a paper that doesn't demonstrate more than a minimal comprehension of the topic. There is incorrect information, the structure is not logical and it is confused. The paper is an unsatisfactory work.

**GRADE F PAPER**, a fail, applies to non-submission of work or to an irrelevant work.

20% of your grade will be based on your use of the Italian language according to the following criteria:

<b>CONTENT</b>	You used the functions and vocabulary necessary to communicate.
<b>COMPRHENSIBILITY</b>	The reader was able to understand what you were trying to communicate
<b>ACCURACY</b>	You used grammar, spelling, word order, and punctuation correctly
<b>EFFORT</b>	You put a lot of thought and effort into this assignment

**Weekly journal (15%).** Students will write a journal in Italian that I will collect on Monday. The journal should register your reaction to the topics discussed in class during the week and should have an entry per class.

**Class participation (15%).** Highest grades for this aspect will be given to those students who come to class prepared every day, having read the material and/or seen the film for each class, and participate actively with a high degree of enthusiasm in class discussions. Attendance is extremely important; there is no way to make up class participation in the event of too many absences. (Please consult the attendance policy that follows.) Students should plan to show that they are prepared to discuss the films and texts in a thoughtful manner every day by volunteering questions, answers, and topics for discussion.

Generally, "A" grades are earned only by students who volunteer intelligent comments consistently. Grades in the "B" range typically go to students who actively participate, but may be less thoughtful or

less consistent in their contributions. Please note: “C” grades are typically earned by students who are prepared and come to class, but make little or no contribution to discussions unless called upon by the instructor. Students who earn “D” grades come to class, but are not prepared and/or not engaged in class discussions. “F” grades are earned by students who are chronically absent or tardy or who openly hinder class discussion in some way (i.e. sleeping or using cell phones or electronic games during discussions).

#### FORM OF ASSESSMENT

2 Exams 30%  
2 Presentation 20 %  
2 Papers 20%  
Weekly journal 15%  
Class participation 15%

#### Gennaio

Week 1: 8-10-12

##### Italia Unita e Problemi post unitari

Introduzione

Geografia/Cause mancanza unita` (J. Hooper: The Italians, cap. 1 e 2)

Napoleone in Italia/Carbonari e Mazziniani/Tra riforme e rivolte (SI, 62-63; 68-69; 70-71)

Week 2: 17-19

Lettura: *All'Italia* (G. Leopardi)

La prima guerra d'indipendenza/ Cavour I mille/l'unita`/ (SI, 72-77)

Film: *La presa di Roma*

Week 3: 22-24-26

##### Il mezzogiorno come problema

La questione meridionale (SI, 82-83)

Lettura: *Il ventre di Napoli* (M. Serao)

Film: *Il Gattopardo* (Marcus)

Week 4: 29-31-2/2

##### La prima guerra mondiale

L'italia in guerra/ Il primo dopoguerra /Il fascismo (SI, 90-91; 96-99)

Lettura: *Manifesto Futurista* (F. T. Marinetti)

Film: *Una giornata particolare* (Marcus)

Week 5: 5-7-9

##### Olocausto

Cultura ebraica in Italia

Lettura: *Shema`* (P. Levi) **Composizione 1**

Film: *La vita e` bella* (Marcus)

Week 6: 12-14-16

##### La seconda guerra mondiale

La resistenza e la nascita della Repubblica (SI, 100-103)

Lettura: *Bella ciao*, la canzone dei partigiani  
Film: *Roma, città aperta* (Marcus)

Week 7: 19-21-23

*Presentazioni*

Ripasso

ESAME 1

Week 8: 26-28-2/3

Il miracolo economico

l'Italia democristiana e il centro sinistra (SI, 104-107)

Lettura: *Marcovaldo al supermarket* (I. Calvino)

Film: *Divorzio all'italiana* (Bondanella)

Marzo

Week 9: 3-11 Vacanze di primavera

Week 10: 12-14-16

Il Movimento studentesco

Il 68 e gli anni di piombo (SI, 108-109)

Lettura: Don Milani: la scuola di Barbiana (canzone del maggio, De Andre')

Film: *La meglio gioventù*

Week 11: 19-21-23

Corruzione e criminalità

La seconda Repubblica (SI, 110-115)

Lettura: *Gomorra* (R. Saviano)

Film: *Il Divo* (Marcus)

Week 12: 26-28-30

Emigrazione/immigrazione

Emigrazione Italiana

Lettura: *Amiche per la pelle* (Laila Wadia)

Film: *Fuoco a mare*

Aprile

Week 13: 2-4-6

Chiesa

Cultura cattolica (*In the name of God*)

Film: *Habemus papam* (Cristiano) Composizione 2

Week 14: 9-11-13

Canzone italiana:

Da Sanremo a Genova (La svolta del '58) (Modugno, Paoli, Bindi, Tenco)

Fabrizio De Andre'

Napoli

Week 15: 16-18-20

Italian cinema (Bondanella) **Composizione 2**

Film: *Cortometraggio*  
Presentazioni

Week 16: 23-25  
Presentazioni  
ESAME 2