

Course Outline: Modern Italian Culture (in translation)

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & LINGUISTICS

Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.

Course Code

AP/IT 3750/4750 6.0 Modern Italian Culture (in translation)

Course Description

This course aims to explore the transformation of the modern Italian state and Italian culture by introducing students to social, economic, cultural and political issues which form the fabric of Italian civilization from unification to the present. It focuses on aspects such as industrialization, the "southern question" and emigration, Fascism and the Resistance, political parties, and the First and Second Republic. Students have an opportunity to explore topics related to the shifts in social values and practices, the rise of feminism and the new role of women, youth and its struggles, the influence of the Church, the individual and the family within the agricultural structure of the past and within the industrial and technological society of our times, the phenomenon of new immigration. Students also examine the influence of Italy on the world with respect to cuisine, fashion, and design. These topics are studied as they emerge in social and historical documents, and in cultural artefacts such as novels, short stories, poetry, and film. Whenever appropriate, references to the visual arts (including cinema and television) and music are also made.

Students enrolled in a Major or Minor in Italian Studies may be required to complete coursework in Italian language.

Course credit exclusions for 3750: AP/IT 4750 6.00.

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Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: Seminar

Seminar mode requires an intense exchange between the instructor and the students, with frequent interruptions and discussions.

Course Materials

All the course material will be posted on E Class, and will include articles, book chapters, excerpts from larger texts, and videos. The main criterion for their selection will be the exposure of students to historical and cultural issues, with the emphasis on texts that deal with the topic explored during the class discussion. Material will include both theoretical and historical texts, such as Histories of Italy and academic texts found on Jstor and other similar repertories available via the York Libraries.

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Critical response - Fall	5 %	At home	To be uploaded by Week 11
Essay - Fall	10 %	At home	Week 11
Midterm	20 %	In person	Week 12
Critical response - Winter	5 %	At home	To be uploaded by Week 23
Oral presentation	15 %	In person	Students will book the date and the topic of their presentation
Essay - Winter	10 %	At home	Week 23
Final test	20 %	In person	Week 24
Participation	15 %	N/A	
	100%		

Active participation will be a crucial portion of the final grade; regular but passive attendance will not be sufficient for a high mark in this section.