

CORE COURSE SYLLABUS

Readings can vary as they are updated and/or integrated with current newspaper articles

ITALIAN HISTORY

Lecture #1: “Roman and the Medieval Italy”

Readings: C. Duggan, *A concise history of Italy*, pp. 9 – 31 (Ch. 1&2)

Lecture #2: “Risorgimento & Fascismo”

Readings: C. Duggan, *A concise history of Italy*, pp.87–143/205-240 (Ch. 4,5,8)

Lecture #3: “Contemporary Italy”

Readings: C. Duggan, *A concise history of Italy*, pp. 240 – 299 (Ch. 9)

Multiple writing assignments and an exam at the end of the module

ITALIAN POLITICS AND CHURCH INSTITUTIONS: A DIFFICULT COHABITATION?

Parma, like many cities in Italy, has many churches – 52 at last count – and yet Parma is not known as a city of churchgoers. How does one account for this apparent anomaly? At the same time, Italian politics seem to be constantly affected by the opinions of the Vatican institutions. How are issues such as divorce, abortion, cohabitation, bioethics issues etc. seen in Parma and Italy in general? Using specific examples drawn from the readings assigned and interviews with Parmigiani of **three different age groups**: senior, middle-aged, young adult or teen, analyze the relation between Church and State.

Assignment: Write a set of questions for interviews to elicit information on direct and indirect aspects of religion in people’s lives. Attend daily and Sunday Mass at several churches, noting who is there. Interview a priest. Write down your assumptions before starting and try to find ways to challenge them. Note the presence of religious items in the home and other secular places.

Readings:

From Catholic Encyclopedia: *Roman Catholicism; The secular power of the Popes*

The ambiguities of the Catholic church, from Paul Ginsborg, *Italy and its Discontents: Family, Civil society, State: 1980-2001*

Pietra e Parola, from T. Jones, *The Dark Heart of Italy*

Level of religiosity by country in Europe (1980-2008)

From Modern Italian Culture, ed. by Z. G. Baranski and R. J. West

Catholicism..... p. 97

Church and State: The Cold War..... p. 133

Multiple writing assignments and an exam at the end of the module

THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD IN ITALY AND AROUND THE WORLD:
Its Influence in The Italian Society, Differences With The U.S. and Other Cultures, Global Issues, and New Trends

“A Parma si è golosi come in tutta l’Emilia, ma ci si vanta d’essere più raffinati, di svolgere, direi, gli stessi temi con maggiore capriccio. Si entra qui nella terra d’Italia dove il cibarsi è un aspetto della cultura e quasi dell’erudizione....”

Guido Piovene
Viaggio in Italia, 1977

Eating in Italy is not only “cibarsi” but can be considered as “il piacere di stare a tavola,” a sort of social rite. Based on your readings, lectures, visits and on your experience eating at home with your family and eating out, explore the role that food seem to play in Parmesan and Italian society in contrast to other cultures you are familiar with. Why is food so important in Italy and what does this tell you, if anything, about Italian culture? Are attitudes toward food changing (are vegeterians/vegans present in Italy? What is the attitude towards eating meat?) If so, what influences are responsible for the change?

Readings:

Emilia-Romagna; Reggio-Emilia, from Root, W., *The Food of Italy*

Parma simply primo for ham and cheese and Italian cuisine, by English, J., For the Journal-Constitution

Multiple writing assignments and an exam at the end of the module

ITALIA: DA TERRA DI EMIGRANTI A TERRA DI IMMIGRATI

“In the late 1960’s, Italy was still a country of emigration, and there were only around 150,000 immigrants living in the country; twenty years later, Italy had over 500,000 immigrants, while having the lowest birth rate in Europe.” (R. West, *Modern Italian Culture*)

Today the number of immigrants has reached about 3,400,000 (7% of the population). Discuss this phenomenon analyzing the readings provided and interviewing **two** Italians of different ages and **one immigrant person**. Use his/her life story as a case study. What is his/her condition today? How does he/she perceive Parma and Parmesans’ attitudes? How do Parmesans perceive immigrants? Can you find examples of integration in Parma?

READINGS:

Immigration and racism, from Paul Ginsborg, *Italy and its Discontents: Family, Civil society, State: 1980-2001*

1. Rusconi, *Italy's migration experiences*

The Italian Diaspora, from Wikipedia

Immigrants abandoning recession-hit Italy, by Guy Dinmore, Financial Times, January 6, 2013

From Modern Italian Culture, ed. by Z. G. Baranski and R. J. West

The Notion of Italy.....p. 17

Italian Culture or Multiculture in the New Millenium?.....p. 337

- Lecture on history of Parma and walking tour
- Lecture on “Intercultural Communication”
- Lecture on “Life with an Italian family”
- Mid-term discussion
- Preparatory lecture and study trip to Venice (two days). Visit to: Santa Maria dei Frari church, Ponte di Rialto, Piazza and Basilica of San Marco.

Multiple writing assignments and an exam at the end of the module