

ROST 300: Italy - Culture and Contexts

John Felice Rome Center

Fall 2019

Wednesdays | 2:30 – 5:30pm

Dr. Andrea B. Aureli

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Office Hours: Mon. 4.30-5.00 pm; Wed. 3.00-4.00 pm; or by appointment

Course Description

When referring to Italy, it is customary to focus on its remote past (the Roman Empire), its civilizational accomplishments in early modern times (the Renaissance), the beauty of the landscape (Cinque Terre), the healthy diversity of its cuisine (the Mediterranean diet) and the creativity its people (Fashion). To be sure, stereotypes have a grain of truth; and yet, in what sense are these cultural icons specifically “Italian”? In other words, what constitutes “Italian” culture?

The course will explore Italy’s ambivalent relationship with its modern national identity. The premise is that “national” cultures are to a certain extent “invented”, the combined open-ended outcome of complex and often conflicting negotiations among different social groups, local communities, intellectual discourses, geopolitical projects and economic forces.

Geographically located at the margins of Western Europe, Italy is *geopolitically* very much integrated into the (Euroatlantic) West. As a result Italian identity has been contested and uncertain, and its relation with modernity ever elusive and located elsewhere, across the Alps or to the other side of the Atlantic.

The course argues that the Italian case problematizes the all-too-neat distinction between the West and the “rest”.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course students will:

- Have acquired a general understanding of the open-ended and contested nature of Italian national identity and culture;
- Be able to identify the basic discursive mechanisms whereby national identities are produced and contested;
- Be able to critically assess the complex and heterogeneous character Western civilization

Required Text / Materials

Assigned will be posted readings posted on Sakai.

Final paper

It will have to be at least 10 pages long; it will be a standard academic paper. Student are encouraged to think about the topic paper well in advance and discuss it with the professor. By **week nine** (Monday) an outline should be handed in including a list of standard academic sources they will use. The final draft will be due on **week twelve** (Monday).

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the JFRC mission to promote a higher level of academic rigor, all courses adhere to the following absence policy. Prompt attendance, preparation and active participation in course discussions are expected from every student.

- For all classes meeting once a week, students cannot incur more than one unexcused absence.
- For all classes meeting twice a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.
- For all classes meeting three times a week, students cannot incur more than two unexcused absences.

This course meets **once** a week, thus a total of *one* unexcused absence will be permitted.

Unexcused absences beyond these will result in a lowering of your final grade.

Assessment Components

• Participation	15 %
• Midterm Exam	25 %
• Paper	35 %
• Final Exam	25 %

Grading

94-100: A
90-93: A-
87-89: B+
84-86: B
80-83: B-
77-79: C+
74-76: C
70-73: C-
67-69: D+
60-66: D
59 or lower: F

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable at the JFRC and will be dealt with in accordance with Loyola University Chicago's guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with Loyola's standards here: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml. You are responsible to comply with the LUC Student Handbook.

Late or Missed Assignments

Late or missed assignments will not be accepted for grading without the authorization of the instructor.

Accessibility Accommodations

Students registered with the Student Accessibility Center requiring academic accommodations should contact the Office of the Dean at the John Felice Rome Center, the first week of classes.



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Course Schedule

Date	Topic/Theme	Assignments/Readings
<i>Week One</i>	General introduction to the course Class discussion	What's It(taly) to you?
<i>Week Two</i>	Italy/Modernity/Nation	
	Readings Screening of "Roma" (F.Fellini)	J. Dickie "The Notion of Italy" A.C. Bull from <i>Modern Italy: A Very Short Introduction</i> (Chs. 1 & 2)
<i>Week Three</i>	(class meets Friday Sept. 20)	
	Readings	J. Agnew "Time into Space" B.Anderson "Cultural Roots"
<i>Week Four</i>	Italy as an Ethical Project	
	Readings Screening of "Una domenica particolare" (E.Scola)	A. Banti "Deep Images" S. Patriarca "Indolence and Regeneration"
<i>Week Five</i>		
	Readings Fieldtrip (TBA)	P. Ginsborg "Salviamo l'Italia" N. Bouchard "Which and Whose Italy?"
<i>Week Six</i>		
	Recap Mid-term Break (Oct 11-20)	



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Week Seven

Where are we at? Review and discussion
What is the Problem?
Patriotism and Virtue

N. Bouchard "Which and Whose Italy?"
S. Patriarca "Indolence and Regeneration"

Week Eight

Tradition and Consumption

Screening of "An American in Rome"

C. Levi "Fleeting Rome" (Selection)

Week Nine

Fieldtrip (TBA)

S. Patriarca "*Mammismo/Momism*"¹
C. Saraceno "Beyond the Stereotype"

Week Ten

"Southern" Anxieties: Italy's Others

D. Segal & R. Handler "How European Is Nationalism?"
E. Said "Orientalism"

Week Eleven

N. Moe "Italy as Europe's South"
D. Forgacs "Colonies"

Week Twelve

Screening "Rocco e I suoi fratelli" (L. Visconti)

D. Forgacs "Souths"²

F. Cassano "Parallels and Meridians"

Week Thirteen

***Recap
Final!***

Wednesday, December 9

1 Paper outline due.

2 Paper due.



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