ROST 300: Italy - Culture and Contexts
John Felice Rome Center
Spring 2019
Mondays & Wednesdays | 5:00-6:15pm
Dr. Andrea B. Aureli
Email: aaureli@luc.edu
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?
This course will NOT provide students with an itemized list of Italian culture traits. Indeed, its 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. One of two mythical birth places of western “civilization” (ancient Rome) it also hosts the seat of a global religious power (Roman Catholicism) whose authority has survived practically unscathed for almost two thousand years and in part as a result this, Italy was a latecomer to the modern political system as a nation state (1861), whose international ambitions, were often frustrated by the lack of support of its own citizens.

In other words Italy is a political entity inherently conflictive, contested and uncertain, where modernity is ever elusive and located elsewhere, across the Alps or to the other side of the Atlantic; at once and at the same time blessed with civic virtues or plagued by amoral familism. Last but not least, since its unification Italian ruling elites of all stripes have repeatedly failed to address the age long divide between the north and the “underdeveloped” south which has been racialized, exploited and subjected to a form of internal colonization which 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 Monday, March 25 an outline should be handed in including a list of standard academic sources they will use. The final draft will be due on April 17
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 twice a week, thus a total of two unexcused absence(s) 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.
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Theme</th>
<th>Assignments/Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week One</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Jan. 21</td>
<td>General introduction to the course</td>
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<td>Wed. Jan. 23</td>
<td>Class discussion</td>
<td>What’s It(aly) to you?</td>
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<td><strong>Week Two</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Jan. 28</td>
<td>Representing the Past</td>
<td>H.White “The Historical Text...”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Jan. 30</td>
<td>Representing the Other</td>
<td>E.Said “Orientalism”</td>
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<td><strong>Week Three</strong></td>
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<td>Mon. Feb. 4</td>
<td>Imagining the Nation</td>
<td>B.Anderson “The Origins...”</td>
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<td>Fri. February 8</td>
<td>Italy: resurgent modernity?</td>
<td>A.C. Bull from Modern Italy: A Very Short Introduction (Chs. 1 &amp; 2)</td>
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<td><strong>Week Four</strong></td>
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<td>Mon. February 11</td>
<td>Italy or Italies?</td>
<td>J. Dickie “The Notion of Italy”</td>
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<td>Wed. February 13</td>
<td>Italy: elusive modernity?</td>
<td>J. Agnew “Time into Space”</td>
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<td><strong>Week Five</strong></td>
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<td>Mon. February 18</td>
<td>The problem with Italy (1826)</td>
<td>U.Foscolo “Women in Italy”</td>
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<td>Wed. February 20</td>
<td>The problem with Italy (2010)</td>
<td>P. Ginsborg “Salviamo l’Italia”</td>
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<td><strong>Week Six</strong></td>
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<td>Mon. February 25</td>
<td>What is the Problem?</td>
<td>N. Bouchard “Which and Whose Italy?”</td>
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<td>Wed. February 27</td>
<td>Patriotism and Virtue</td>
<td>S. Patriarca “Indolence and Regeneration”</td>
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<td><strong>Week Seven</strong></td>
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<td>Mon. March 4</td>
<td>Recap</td>
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<td>Wed. March 6</td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
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<td>Break (March 8-17)</td>
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**Week Eight**

*Tradition and Consumption*

- **Mon. March 18**  Where are we at? Review and discussion
- **Wed. March 20**  Modernity's excess: Screening of scenes from "Roma" by Fellini
- **Fri. March 22**  Urban space: modernity, nostalgia  C. Levi “Fleeting Rome” (Selection)

**Week Nine**

- **Mon. March 25**  S. Patriarca “Mammismo/Momism”  
- **Wed. March 27**  E. Krause “Empty Craddles”

**Week Ten**

*“Southern” Anxieties: Italy’s Others*

- **Mon. April 1**  Nationalism Reconsidered: Introduction  D. Segal & R. Handler “How European Is Nationalism?”
- **Wed. April 3**  Grand Tour into Decadence  N. Moe “Italy as Europe’s South”

**Week Eleven**

- **Mon. April 8**
- **Wed. April 10**  Italy and the “Orient”  F. De Donno “Routes to Modernity”

**Week Twelve**

- **Mon. April 15**  The South: Between East and West  D. Forgacs “Souths”
- **Wed. April 17**  Morality/Modernization: A debate  E. Banfield & A. Pizzorno “Amoral Familism”

**Week Thirteen**

- **Wed. April 17**  Mediterranean alternative?  F. Cassano “Parallels and Meridians”
- **Wed. April 24**  Recap
- **Mon. April 29 (Tentative)**  Final!

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1  Paper outline due.

2  Paper due.