



COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: HIST 350 - Special Topics: Cultural Dialogues: Italy and United States
(45 contact hours, 3 credits)

This syllabus is informational in nature and is not an express or implied contract. It is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, as a result of any circumstance outside the University's control, or as other needs arise. If, in the University's sole discretion, public health conditions or any other matter affecting the health, safety, upkeep, or well-being of our campus community or operations requires the University to move to remote teaching, alternative assignments may be provided so that the learning objectives for the course, as determined by the faculty and the University, can still be met. The University does not guarantee specific in-person, on-campus classes, activities, opportunities, or services or any other particular format, timing, or location of education, classes, activities, or services.

Mask Policy

Please be advised that the mask policy in this class will follow Sant'Anna Institute requirements. When/if the University enacts a mask policy, all students are expected to adhere to the policy.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys cultural relations between Italy and the United States from the end of the 19th century to the present. Rather than just comparing historical events we will place them in juxtaposition focusing on unexpected and critical connections. We will embark on a transatlantic journey tracing multiple histories that connect past and present, global and local: Migration, sounds, moving images, international relations and politics, radicalism, race and racialism, the American Century, the truly global aspect of World War II, organized crime, the urban crises of the 1970s, global media flows, power and mass communication, youth culture, and imperialism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of the course the students will be able to:

- Explain cultural relations between Italy and the USA
- Explore the main trends in Italian history and culture

- Develop critical analysis and comparison skills
- Demonstrate creative thinking by linking content and insights from multiple disciplines
- Communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with a clear message and organizational structure
- Gain awareness of societal and/or civic issues
- Analyze the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems)

FORMAT

- Students will engage in small group work and discussions.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- P. Ginsborg, *A History of Contemporary Italy*, MacMillian, latest edition.
- M. Nolan, *The Transatlantic Century: Europe and America, 1890-2010*, Cambridge University Press, 2012.

A list of readings will be also provided by the instructor. Student Learning Outcomes:

EXAMS and ASSIGNMENTS

- Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required and will be taken daily. Students coming in late will be considered absent. Excessive absences will impact the final grade significantly. Students are responsible for all material covered in class meetings, regardless of their physical presence in the room. Students are expected to come prepared to engage with and discuss the assigned material. This means preparing the assignment before class and bringing the reading material to class. All students are expected to participate in class discussions and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. Students are especially encouraged to bring their questions to class. Both students and their faculty will create and uphold an intellectual environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others' arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect viewpoints other than our own.

- Assignments

Film Reviews: students will write two film reviews and two short papers over the course of the term. The film papers are due as indicated in the Course Schedule. These should be 2-page reviews (double-spaced, standard font and margins) of the film that summarizes the message of the movie and highlights its significance. Papers: the two papers are due as indicated on the Course Schedule. Each paper should be 3-5 pages in length, and include a thesis statement and evidence that supports that thesis. Papers should be double-spaced, with standard margins and

font. Papers should cite all words and ideas that are not the student's own using a recognizable citation system. Papers should draw from class materials and discussions but may also pull in outside research as necessary. Each paper should refer to at least two different sources. Class Journal: A weekly journal based upon the reading and discussion.

Final Project: Each student will complete a final project that addresses an aspect of the course. These projects will be presented both orally and visually. Preparation for the final project will take place over the course of the semester and will build on other work completed. Students should choose their final topics fairly early in the semester and gear their papers toward that goal.

- Final projects

They will need to contain three elements:

- 1) a visual presentation with images and text (properly cited);
- 2) a 8 page working paper that presents the issue at hand and the students assessment of that issue (with proper citations);
- 3) an annotated bibliography of at least academic 5 sources from at least three different disciplines

Grade Breakdown:

- Attendance/Participation: 15%
- Midterm exam: 20%
- Film Reviews: 10%
- Papers: 25%
- Final Project: 30%

GRADING SCALE

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|----|----------|
| A | 95%-100% |
| A- | 90%-94% |
| B+ | 87%-89% |
| B | 83%-86% |
| B- | 80%-82% |
| C+ | 77%-79% |
| C | 73%-76% |
| C- | 70%-72% |

| | |
|----|---------|
| D+ | 67%-69% |
| D | 63%-66% |
| D- | 60%-62% |
| F | < 60% |

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Unit 1: Course Introduction

Unit 2: Italy and the US: birth and rebirth of two States

- The Post-Civil War in the US: *The Jim Crow Laws*
- The National Unification in Italy

Unit 3: Italian Immigration to the United States

- Italian and Southern European immigration to the US
- Italians at Hollywood (Early cinema)
- Italian Anarchists
- Movie I

Unit 3: The Age of Empires

- Cultures of US Imperialism
- Italy in the Age of Empire
- Responses to the Italian invasion of Ethiopia in Harlem, N.Y.
- "Italiani brava gente"
- Encountering Mass Culture

Unit 4: The 1920s

- Woodrow Wilson
- The American Century
- Jazz in the World
- Italian American Musicians
- Fascism in Italy
- Perception of Italian fascism in the US
- The anti-fascist intellectuals in the US

Unit 5: The New Deal in Global Perspective

- Listening in: Radio in the 1930s
- Public Space and Architecture
- Making the New Deal: A Transatlantic Perspective

Unit 6: World War II and its Aftermath

- Allied Troops in Italy
- The US cinema in Italy during the war
- The Italian Neorealist Cinema in the US
- Movie II
- The US influence on the Italian culture after the War

CLASS POLICY

Attendance

You are allowed **ONE** unexcused absence. Documentation for any other absence **MUST** be produced and **APPROVED** by your faculty. For absences due to illness, please provide the faculty with a doctor's note upon returning to class as well as inform them and/or the Office the first day of illness.

Participation grants the student one point for each lesson they attend. Unjustified absences result in 0 points. Participation in **field-trips**, if any, awards 2 points, while non-participation results in a loss of 2 points.

Both by school policy and Italian law attendance at all classes is required of all students. (Yes, your student visa is dependent on perfect attendance.) Even so, I will reward students (round a borderline grade up) for perfect or very good attendance, but I am also forced by school policy to penalize students who accrue more than two unexcused absences, so please do your very best to be here and engaged when you are here. Students are expected to arrive at class on time, having completed the readings and written assignments due that day (see schedule below), in order to receive a passing (C or better) grade.

Since our texts are provided in electronic form, you will have a laptop in front of you during our class sessions, both the literary discussions and the workshops. Having lived for some years in a world free of such devices, I can tell you from experience that your laptop is *not* your friend, that it has already damaged your ability to concentrate and made it far more difficult for you to stay focused and benefit from classroom education than those of us lucky enough to have studied before this very tempting distraction-machine was invented. Serious psychological studies have demonstrated again and again that the laptop (and the myth of “multi-tasking”) is seriously detrimental to human information retention, that taking notes on a computer is a far less effective memory jog than notes written on paper, and that the distractions that computers offer (social media, online shopping, games, etc.) are the greatest impediments to your education at the present moment. Please do your best to defeat these temptations and use the laptop only to refer to the text under discussion and, if you must, to take notes and jot down

thoughts, interpretations, and possible paper topics. For 1.5 hours twice a week, please try your best to leave the buzz of the cyber world behind, to stay with us and live “in the moment.” This is your only hope.

Late submissions:

Assignments not submitted by the due date will receive a penalty of 10% for the first 24 hours, 20% for a 48-hour delay. No submissions will be accepted more than 3 days after the deadline, unless arrangements have been made with the instructor (for extensions under exceptional circumstances, apply to the course instructor).

Personal Technology:

Please turn cell phones off during class. You can use laptops to take notes, however social networking, e-mailing, surfing the Internet, playing games, etc. are forbidden during class. Any student caught using their laptop/cell phones inappropriately during class will be asked to turn them off. Repeated violations of this rule after the first warning will result in the student being marked absent for the day and permanently losing their laptop privileges. Please be respectful and limit your use of personal electronic devices during class to academic purposes.

Contesting a grade:

If students wish to contest a grade, they must make an appointment to do so in person. The student should contact the instructor with any concerns within ONE week of receiving the grade. The student must also demonstrate that they have read the comments accompanying the grade by presenting a brief written statement specifying why the grade does not reflect the quality of the work. It is at the discretion of the instructor to decide whether the work and the student’s request warrant any increase or decrease in the grade. Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments and feedback (in case of loss) and should also retain all of their marked assignments.

Recommended behavior:

- Class begins promptly at the beginning of the class period. It is advisable that you be in your seat and ready to start participating in class at that time.
- Always bring the required supplies and be ready to be actively engaged in the learning process. This communicates preparedness and interest.
- Turn your cell phone off or to vibrate mode before the start of class;
- It is fine to bring a drink or a snack to class, as long as it is not distracting. In conjunction with this, please pick up your trash when you leave the room.
- Your professor expects your full attention for the entire class period. If you know that you’ll need to leave before the class is over, try to sit as close to the door as possible so as not to disrupt others. Similarly, if you arrive in class late, just slip in as quietly as possible and take the first available seat you come to.
- Do not sleep in class! Laying your head on the desk or sleeping in class is rude, and it is distracting to others. Turn in assignments on time.

- When you have a question or comment, please raise your hand first as a courtesy to your classmates and the professor. Remember, your questions are NOT an imposition – they are welcome. So, ask questions! You’ll learn more, it makes the class more interesting, and you are helping others learn as well.
- If an emergency arises that requires an absence from a session, it is your responsibility to get the notes and all other information that was covered in class from a colleague you trust.

Secular and religious holidays:

Sant'Anna Institute recognizes that there are several secular and religious holidays - not included in the Italian calendar - that affect large numbers of its community members. In consideration of their significance for many students, no examinations may be given and no assigned work may be required on these days. Students who observe these holidays will be given an opportunity to make up missed work in both laboratories and lecture courses. If an examination is given on the first class day after one of these holidays, it must not cover material introduced in class on that holiday. Students who wish to observe such holidays must inform their instructors within the first two weeks of each semester of their intent to observe the holiday even when the exact date of the holiday will not be known until later so that alternative arrangements convenient to both students and faculty can be made at the earliest opportunity.

Students who make such arrangements will not be required to attend classes or take examinations on the designated days, and faculty must provide reasonable opportunities for such students to make up missed work and examinations. For this reason it is desirable that faculty inform students of all examination dates at the start of each semester.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

“Members of the Jacksonville University community are expected to foster and uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity, which are foundations for the intellectual endeavors we engage in.

To underscore the importance of truth, honesty, and accountability, students and instructors should adhere to the following standard:

“On my honor as a student of Jacksonville University, I promise to uphold the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in all my dealings with faculty, staff, and students.”

Academic misconduct occurs when a student engages in an action that is deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest regarding any type of academic assignment that is intended to or results in an unfair academic advantage. In this context, the term “assignment” refers to any type of graded or ungraded work that is submitted for evaluation for any course. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, collusion, falsification, misrepresentation, unauthorized collaboration on assignments, copying another student’s work, using or providing unauthorized

notes or materials, turning in work not produced by the individual, attempting to get credit for a single instance of work submitted for more than one course, and plagiarism. Furthermore, providing deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest information during discussions of an academic matter with faculty are also examples of academic misconduct.” (Jacksonville University Academic Integrity [Policy](#)).

Throughout this course we will be reading and reporting about the work of others. All information that is not original to the student must be appropriately attributed in both presentations and written work. All students are expected to do their own work and give appropriate credit for all sources used in the process of preparing papers, presentations, and homework assignments. Group assignments will be graded based on the product of the work, although some adjustment may be made for participation. [If you have a question about whether or not collaboration is allowed, or how to cite a reference, please ask. It is always better to check than to be accused of an unintended violation of the academic honesty policy]. Violations of the academic honesty policy will be dealt with in accordance to university policies [Refer to current Academic Catalog “Academic Integrity and Misconduct”].

Course Level Penalties: A first offense may result in a failing grade for the assignment. Second offenses may result in failure in the course. Significantly egregious violations may result in expulsion from the university. When in doubt give credit for all information that did not come directly out of your head!

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Students with a documented disability requesting classroom accommodations or modifications, either permanent or temporary, resulting from the disability are encouraged to inform the faculty in the first week of the program.