



Understanding Contemporary Italy

SECTION I: COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Code: SOC120FLR, ANT120FLR

Subject Areas: Sociology, Anthropology

Prerequisites: None

Language of Instruction: English

Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to contemporary life in Italy through a social science lens. Through in-class and guided field visits, students will explore a range of defining socio-political and cultural phenomena in current Italian life. Students will directly engage the host society through field visits and observation. Students will compare these direct experiences with scholarly literature on social patterns with a focus on contemporary Italy including class, gender, and community relations; political allegiance and conflict; cultural alignment or dissent; social solidarity and artistic innovation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Describe social scientific approaches to the study of complex societies.
- Articulate key social, political, and cultural phenomena in contemporary Italy.
- Explain significant ways in which Italian society has evolved into its current expressions
- Relate social science concepts to the examination of contemporary Italy.

Section II: Instructor & Course Details

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

Name:	TBA
Contact Information:	TBA
Term:	Semester

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This class will meet twice weekly for 90 minutes each session. All students are expected to arrive on time and prepared for the day's class session. Class may meet for more sessions per week, to meet a total of 45 contact hours.

CEA enforces a mandatory attendance policy. You are therefore expected to attend all regularly scheduled class sessions, including any field trips, site visits, guest lectures, etc. that are assigned by the instructor. The table below shows the number of class sessions you may miss before receiving a grade penalty.

ALLOWED ABSENCES – SEMESTER		
Courses Meeting X day(s) Per Week	Allowed Absence(s)	Automatic Failing Grade at X th absence
Courses meeting 2 day(s) per week	2 Absences	8 th Absence

For every additional absence beyond the allowed number, your final course grade will drop down to the subsequent letter grade (ex: A+ to A). As a student, you should understand that the grade penalties will apply if you are marked absent due to tardiness or leaving class early. In the table below, you will find the grade penalty associated with each excessive absence up to and including automatic course failure.

ATTENDANCE DOCKING PENALTIES				
Absence	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Penalty	No Penalty	0.5 Grade Docked	1 Grade Docked	Automatic Failure
HIGHEST POSSIBLE GRADE AFTER ATTENDANCE PENALTIES				
Grade	A+	A	A-	F

CEA does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. As such, no documentation is required for missing class. Similarly, excessive absences, and the grade penalty associated with each, will not be excused even if you are able to provide documentation that shows the absence was beyond your control. You should therefore only miss class when truly needed as illness or other unavoidable factors may force you to miss a class session later on in the term.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require any special accommodations or have any special learning needs, please inform the instructor and submit a request using CEA's Special Accommodations Form to the onsite CEA academic staff by the end of the first week of classes for full consideration. See Section III.B.CEA Policies below for additional details.

GRADING & ASSESSMENT

The instructor will assess your progress towards the above-listed learning objectives by using the forms of assessment below. Each of these assessments is weighted and will count towards your final grade. The following section (Assessment Overview) will provide further details for each.

Class Participation	15%
Group Facilitation	10%
Group Case Study	15%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Reflection Papers (2)	20%
Final Exam	20%

The instructor will calculate your course grades using the CEA Grading Scale shown below. As a CEA student, you should understand that credit transfer decisions—including earned grades for courses taken abroad—are ultimately made by your home institution.

CEA GRADING SCALE			
Letter Grade	Numerical Grade	Percentage Range	Quality Points
A+	9.70 – 10.0	97.0 – 100%	4.00
A	9.40 – 9.69	94.0 – 96.9%	4.00
A-	9.00 – 9.39	90.0 – 93.9%	3.70
B+	8.70 – 8.99	87.0 – 89.9%	3.30
B	8.40 – 8.69	84.0 – 86.9%	3.00
B-	8.00 – 8.39	80.0 – 83.9%	2.70
C+	7.70 – 7.99	77.0 – 79.9%	2.30
C	7.40 – 7.69	74.0 – 76.9%	2.00
C-	7.00 – 7.39	70.0 – 73.9%	1.70
D	6.00 – 6.99	60.0 – 69.9%	1.00
F	0.00 – 5.99	0.00 – 59.9%	0.00
W	Withdrawal	N/A	0.00
INC	Incomplete	N/A	0.00

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This section provides a brief description of each form of assessment listed above. Your course instructor will provide further details and instructions during class time. For each of the following assessments, a rubric will be provided in class and/or be posted to Moodle.

Class Participation (15%): Student participation is mandatory for all courses taken at a CEA Study Center. The instructor will use the rubric below when determining your participation grade. Punctuality and active participation are expected.

Group Facilitation (10%): Each student will be assigned a week to act as discussion leader. On the assigned week, the discussion leader will present one 5-10 minute summary of the main points of one of the assigned readings for that day. Visuals (i.e., Handouts, PowerPoint, Prezi etc.) are not required. The discussion leaders should be prepared to have a thoughtful discussion of the reading, explaining the relevant aspects of the readings; and connecting them to the broader Italian cultural context and to the themes discussed in class to date. At the end of the presentation, students will prepare a question to initiate class discussion.

Group Case Study (15%): Working in small groups, students will select from a pre-selected list of case studies that exemplify how social science concepts help us to understand aspects of contemporary Italy. Groups will then conduct research and prepare a presentation to be delivered in-class using visuals (i.e. Handouts, PowerPoint, Prezi). The presentations should last approximately 15 minutes with time to follow for Q&A. Each student will receive an individual grade for their contributions to the group case study.

Reflection Papers (20%): 2 reflection papers of 1-2 pages (12 point font, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins) will be assigned by your professor during the semester. Students will be given two prompts from which to choose. The reflection papers will be graded for the student's ability to evaluate, assess and think critically on the given subjects. The paper may include personal observations, analysis, interpretations, reflections, evaluations and inferences.

Midterm & Final Exams (40%): These are intended to assess your comprehension of the core concepts from the course, and will draw on lectures, assigned readings, and classroom discussions. The midterm includes short answer and essay questions covering the main themes and specific contents of the first half of the semester; multiple choice questions; definitions of dates and/or of main terms. The final exam includes open-ended questions and essay-questions covering the second half of the semester; multiple choice questions and definitions of dates and/or terms.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES (AICAP)

CEA courses are designed to include a variety of experiential learning activities that will take you out of the classroom and allow you to explore your local, host city. These activities may include field studies, guest lectures and/or activities offered through our Academically Integrated Cultural Activities Program (AICAP). The following experiential learning activities are recommended for this course:

- Group case study
- Field visits

ATTENDANCE POLICY

CEA enforces a mandatory attendance policy. You are therefore expected to attend all regularly scheduled class sessions, including any field trips, site visits, guest lectures, etc. that are assigned by the instructor. The table below shows the number of class sessions you may miss before receiving a grade penalty.

ALLOWED ABSENCES – SEMESTER

Courses Meeting X day(s) Per Week	Allowed Absence(s)	Automatic Failing Grade at X th absence
Courses meeting 2 day(s) per week	2 Absence	8 th Absence

For every additional absence beyond the allowed number, your final course grade will drop down to the subsequent letter grade (ex: A+ to A). As a student, you should understand that the grade penalties will apply if you are marked absent due to tardiness or leaving class early. In the table below, you will find the grade penalty associated with each excessive absence up to and including automatic course failure.

ATTENDANCE DOCKING PENALTIES								
Absence	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
Penalty	No Penalty	No Penalty	0.5 Grade Docked	1 Grade Docked	1.5 Grades Docked	2 Grades Docked	2.5 Grades Docked	Automatic Failure
HIGHEST POSSIBLE GRADE AFTER ATTENDANCE PENALTIES								
Grade	A+	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	F

CEA does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. As such, no documentation is required for missing class. Similarly, excessive absences, and the grade penalty associated with each, will not be excused even if you are able to provide documentation that shows the absence was beyond your control. You should therefore only miss class when truly needed as illness or other unavoidable factors may force you to miss a class session later on in the term.

REQUIRED READINGS

Reading assignments for this course will come from the selected reading(s) listed below. All required readings must be completed according to the due date assigned by the course instructor.

I. REQUIRED TEXT(S):

Colander, David C., and Elgin F. Hunt. Social science: An introduction to the study of society. Routledge, 2019.

- II. **SELECTED READING(S):** The selected readings for this course are listed below. You will not need to purchase these readings; the instructor will provide these selected readings to you in class (either in paper or electronic format).

Argentin, Gianluca. "New Generation at a Crossroads: Decline or Change? Young people in Italy and their transformation since the nineties." *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Italy*. ed. by Andrea Mammone, Ercole Giap Parini, Giuseppe Veltri. London, Routledge, 2015, pp. 77-88.

Dickie, John. "Imagined Italies." in *Italian Cultural Studies, an Introduction*. David Forgacs and Robert Lumley, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996, pp. 19-33.

Fabbri, Maria. Diani, Mario. "Social Movement Campaigns from Global Justice Activism to Movimento Cinque Stelle." *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Italy*. ed. by Andrea Mammone, Ercole Giap Parini, Giuseppe Veltri. London, Routledge, 2015, 225-236.

Follain, John. *Vendetta: The Mafia, Judge Falcone and the quest for justice*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2012, 13-18, 32-41, 118-121, 141-152.

Leitch, Alison. "Slow Food and the politics of "virtuous globalization"." *Food and Culture*. Routledge, 2018. 493-509.

Mammone, Andrea. Veltri, Giuseppe A. "A 'sick man' in Europe." In *Italy Today. The Sick Man of Europe*. Andrea Mammone and Giuseppe A. Veltri. London: Routledge, 2010, pp. 1-15.

Mignone, Mario B. "Italians." *Italy Today: facing the challenges of the new millennium*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., 2008, 13-18.

Mignone, Mario B. "Family: Tradition and Change." *Italy Today: facing the challenges of the new millennium*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., 2008, 293-319.

Musarò Pierluigi & Paola Parmiggiani. "Beyond Black and White: the role of Media in portraying and policing migration and asylum in Italy." *International Review of Sociology*. 27 (2), 241-260.

Parini, Ercole Giap. "Mafias, Italy and Beyond." *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Italy*. ed. by Andrea Mammone, Ercole Giap Parini, Giuseppe Veltri. London, Routledge, 2015, pp. 89-99.

Saraceno, Chiara. "Beyond the Stereotype: the Obstacle Course of Motherhood in Italy." *La Mamma. Interrogating a National Stereotype*. Penelope Morris, Perry Wilson. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018, pp. 215-235.

Siebert, Renate. "Mafia and Daily Life: The Evolution of Gender and Generational Relationships." in *The 'Ndrangheta and Sacra Corona Unita. The History, Organization and Operations of Two Unknown Mafia Groups*. Nicoletta Serenata ed. Switzerland: Springer International Publishing, 2014. 15-31.

Siegmund, Stefanie B. *The Medici State and the Ghetto of Florence: the Construction of an Early Modern Jewish Community*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006, pp. 201-222.

Wildvang, Frauke. "The Enemy Next Door: Italian collaboration in deporting Jews during the German occupation of Rome." *Modern Italy*. 12:2 (June 2007) 189-204.

Main films and documentaries to be watched at home:

- Roberto Faenza, *Alla luce del sole* (2005)
- Black Lives Matter a Global Reckoning – Italy (2021)
- Fred Kuwornu, 18 IUS SOLI. The right of Being Italian (2011)

RECOMMENDED READINGS

The recommended reading(s) and/or text(s) for this course are below. These recommended readings are not mandatory, but they will assist you with research and understanding course content.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In order to ensure your success abroad, CEA has provided the academic resources listed below. In addition to these resources, each CEA Study Center provides students with a physical library and study areas for group work. The Academic Affairs Office at each CEA Study Center also compiles a bank of detailed information regarding libraries, documentation centers, research institutes, and archival materials located in the host city.

- **UNH Online Library:** As a CEA student, you will be given access to the online library of CEA's School of Record, the University of New Haven (UNH). You can use this online library to access databases and additional resources while performing research abroad. You may access the UNH online library [here](#) or through your MyCEA Account. You must comply with UNH Policies regarding library usage.
- **CEAClassroom – Moodle:** CEA instructors use Moodle, an interactive virtual learning environment. This web-based platform provides you with constant and direct access to the course syllabus, daily schedule of class lectures and assignments, non-textbook required readings, and additional resources. Moodle includes the normal array of forums, up-loadable and downloadable databases, wikis, and related academic support designed for helping you achieve the learning objectives listed in this syllabus.

During the first week of class, CEA academic staff and/or faculty will help you navigate through the many functions and resources Moodle provides. While you may print a hard copy version of the syllabus, you should always check Moodle for the most up-to-date information regarding this course. The instructor will use Moodle to make announcements and updates to the course and/or syllabus. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to all Moodle materials and that you monitor Moodle on a daily basis in case there are any changes made to course assignments or scheduling. To access Moodle: Please log-in to your MyCEA account using your normal username and password. Click on the "While You're Abroad Tab" and make sure you are under the "Academics" sub-menu. There you will see a link above your schedule that says "View Online Courses" select this link to be taken to your Moodle environment.

COURSE CALENDAR

Understanding Contemporary Italy

SESSION	TOPICS	ACTIVITIES	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
1	<p>Introduction to the course</p> <p>Review syllabus</p> <p>Community Agreement</p> <p>Plan case study presentations and discussion facilitators</p>	Course Overview	<p>Introductions & Initial Questions: Personal Presentations, Expectations, Background</p> <p>Acquire & skim course texts</p>
2	Social Science and Its Methods	Lecture & Discussion	Readings: Colander and Hunt, Chapter 1
3	Society, Culture, and Cultural Change	Lecture & Discussion	Readings: Colander and Hunt, Chapter 4
Italian Nation Building: Regionalism & Emancipation, Internationalization & Ghettoization			
4	Italian Multiplicities: The Regional and the National	Lecture & Discussion	Readings: Dickie, pp. 19-33 Mignone, pp. 13-18
5	The Jewish Community in Florence: From Segregation to Inclusion	Lecture & Discussion	Readings: Siegmund, Chapter 5, pp 201-222
6	Field visit to historic Jewish neighborhood	Field Visit	Assignment: Reflection paper #1 due
7	Case Study Presentations	Lecture & Discussion	Assignment: Meet with your assigned group to prepare case study presentation or review course readings

The Second Republic: Organized Crime and Politics

8	1992-1993: Florence and the strategy of terror in Italy	Lecture & Discussion	Reading: Follain, pp. 13-18, 32-41, 118-121, 141-152
9	The Mafias as a social, cultural and gender construct	Lecture & Discussion	Reading: Parini, pp. 89-99 Siebert, pp. 15-31
10	Deviance, Crime and Society	Lecture & Discussion	Reading: Colander and Hunt, Chapter 8
11	Case Study Presentations	Lecture & Discussion	Assignment: Meet with your assigned group to prepare case study presentation or review course readings
12	Silvio Berlusconi, <i>Berlusconism</i> and the 'new' Italy	Lecture & Discussion	Reading: Mammone and Veltri, pp. 1-15
13	The Italian political class: the <i>elit�</i> vs the 5 Star Movement	Lecture & Discussion	Reading: Fabbri and Diani, pp. 225-236
14	Review for Midterm	Review for Midterm	Prepare and review for midterm
15	MIDTERM		

Women, Family and Society			
16	Familism	Lecture & Discussion	Reading: Colander and Hunt, Chapter 9
17	The image and role of women	Lecture & Discussion	Reading: Saraceno, pp. 215-235
18	Drawing Conclusions on women and family	Lecture & Discussion	Reading: Mignone, Ch. 11, pp. 293-319
19	Case study presentations	Lecture & Discussion	Assignment: Meet with your assigned group to prepare case study presentation or review course readings
20	Italian Food and Identity	Lecture & Discussion	Reading: Leitch, "Slow Food," pp. 493-509
21	Visit a fresh air Italian Market	Guided tour and discussion	Reflection paper #2 due
22	Case study presentations	Lecture & Discussion	Assignment: Meet with your assigned group to prepare case study presentation or review course readings
Immigration, Ethnicity and Society			
23	From a migrant nation to an immigrant country: introduction Facilitated Check-In, Group Research Projects	Lecture & Discussion	Black Lives Matter a Global Reckoning – Italy Colander and Hunt, Chapter 12 Social and Economic Stratification Come prepared to work in pairs and with instructor on progress of group research projects

24	The refugee crisis in the Mediterranean Sea	Lecture & Discussion	Musarò and Parmiggiani, "Beyond Black and White," pp. 241-260
25	Italian Jews under Fascism: the Holocaust in Italy	Lecture & Discussion	Wildvang, "The Enemy," pp. 189-204
26	Field visit to site of historical importance related to the themes of this course. Example: In Florence, visit US Memorial <i>I Falciani</i> .		
27	The New Generations and The Brain Drain	Lecture & Discussion	Argentin, "New Generation," pp. 77-88
28	Case study presentations Conclusions, Final Reflections	Lecture & Discussion	Assignment: Meet with your assigned group to prepare case study presentation or review course readings
29	Review for Final	Review for Final	Prepare and review for final
30	FINAL EXAM		

SECTION III: CEA Academic Policies

The policies listed in this section outline general expectations for CEA students. You should carefully review these policies to ensure success in your courses and during your time abroad. Furthermore, as a participant in the CEA program, you are expected to review and understand all CEA Student Policies, including the academic policies outlined on our website. CEA reserves the right to change, update, revise, or amend existing policies and/or procedures at any time. For the most up to date policies, please review the policies on our website.

Class & Instructor Policies can be found [here](#)
 General Academic Policies can be found [here](#)