



ST. JEROME'S
UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of Italian & French Studies

ITALST 100 Fall 2021

Understanding Modern Italy

Remote Asynchronous Course

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Privitera
Office Hours: By appointment on Zoom
Email: andrea.privitera@uwaterloo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The paradoxes and contradictions of Italian culture and society are notorious. Italians themselves find it difficult and frustrating to define their own national identity, while outsiders are often baffled by a seemingly intractable complexity. In recent years, scholars in Italian studies have been increasingly attracted by the idea that, more than most other European countries, Italy is in fact an optical illusion, a mirage that dissipates as soon as one gets too close to it. An extremely varied geography (ranging from the highest peaks on the European continent to the center of the Mediterranean Sea), a “common” language that was not widely spoken or understood by the majority of the population until the arrival of television in the 1950s, a political history of division and separation that a bloody unification was not able to overcome, all these factors have long resisted the emergence of a strong national identity. And yet, today perhaps more than ever, certain aspects of Italian culture have become international and indeed global points of reference. No major city in the world lacks Italian restaurants, much of the global elite wears Italian fashion, young people all over the world dream of driving a Ferrari, cultivated people in Tokyo and Singapore attend Italian Opera, and young people in New Delhi no less than in London, Moscow, or Cairo study the films of Visconti, Fellini, Antonioni. In sum, the global importance of Italian culture seems to be out of proportion with the country's overall weight, in population, in the international economic system, and on the global political scene.

We will examine the emergence of modern Italy from the problematic process of unification and will trace its development up to the contemporary period, focusing on key moments such as WW I, Fascism, WWII and the post-WWII economic boom. We will thus attempt to map some of the central characteristics of contemporary Italian society and culture. We will be guided by the idea that Italy is less a coherent concept than an experience and within this experience characterized by certain key tensions and controversies more than by stable qualities and attributes. The objective is to develop the basic understanding necessary to orient oneself in the seeming incoherence of contemporary Italian reality.

COURSE DELIVERY

The course will be delivered remotely and fully asynchronous. Lectures will be uploaded every Tuesday and Thursday on LEARN at 12 am Eastern Time. **However, students are also expected to complete Quizzes and discussions due on each week to keep up with the course content.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Frame the main events of Italian modern history (1848-1994) within the context of European and Global history.
2. Understand the main sources of conflict in Italian society (centralism/regionalism, secularism/religion, legality/crime, left/right, etc.).
3. Recognize how contradictions in Italian history and society are commented upon in the readings and audiovisual material presented during the course.
4. Articulate informed arguments about contradictions Italian modern history and society in an elegantly written essay.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Students should get a copy of the following books at the beginning of the course:

- [The Leopard by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa \(WStore website link\)](#)
- [A History of Contemporary Italy by Paul Ginsborg \(WStore website link\)](#)

Other reading and audiovisual material (both required and recommended) will be available online or on the LEARN course website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

During the term, students will be asked to complete the following components:

- **Discussions on Learn (10%):** Active participation in weekly discussions constitutes an integral part of the course. Each week, students are asked to take part on weekly threads on LEARN. The mark will be based on the quality of the weekly contributions and the level of engagement in discussions. Reflections, questions and comments are not only encouraged but expected of all students. The instructor will release votes for Discussions 1 to 4 by October 26, and for discussion 5 to 11 at the end of the course.
- **Weekly Quizzes on LEARN (10%).** These 10 weekly quizzes will assess the basic knowledge of the topics presented during video lectures, and should be completed on LEARN each Thursday starting on September 16. Each Quiz will be available from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm Eastern time on the day they are released.

- **Response Paper, due on October 5 (10%).** Students are expected to write a personal response paper to one of the readings discussed up until that date, reflecting on the way in which this particular work has confirmed/challenged previously held ideas about Italian history and society. Important information about the University of Waterloo Writing Centre will be posted on announcements (LEARN) and it is advisable to use all the available help on campus to work on improving your writing. This is a course which is meant to strengthen the student's overall writing skills.

Format: An outline of the essay structure, as well as a detailed rubric, will be posted on LEARN. **Response papers must be typed and double-spaced using Times New Roman (12pt.) font. The essay should be around 1,000 words long excluding citations. Formatting and citations should follow the MLA style.**

Grading will be based on the following criteria (consult rubric for further details):

- Evidence of critical thinking
 - Logical organization of thoughts
 - Clarity of ideas
 - Grammar, spelling and vocabulary
 - Evidence of further research carried out by the student and adherence to MLA style guide.
- **Take-Home Midterm test on October 26 (20%).** The Midterm an examination on the material covered up to the lecture before this examination. Students have 24 hours (from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm Eastern time) on October 26 to complete and upload the test to the midterm DROPBOX on LEARN. The test consists of a series of short answer questions.
 - **Final paper due on December 2 (25%).** The instructor will upload a list of suggested topics for the final paper. Students wishing to discuss a topic of their choice must obtain the professor's permission.

Important information about the University of Waterloo Writing Centre will be posted on announcements (LEARN) and it is advisable to use all the available help on campus to work on improving your writing. This is a course which is meant to strengthen the student's overall writing skills.

Format: An outline of the essay structure, as well as a detailed rubric, will be posted on LEARN. **Final papers must be typed and double-spaced using Times New Roman (12pt.) font. The essay should be around 3,000 words long excluding citations. Formatting and citations should follow the MLA style.**

Grading will be based on the following criteria (consult rubric for further details):

- Evidence of critical thinking
 - Logical organization of thoughts
 - Clarity of ideas
 - Grammar, spelling and vocabulary
 - Evidence of further research carried out by the student and adherence to MLA style guide.
- **Take-Home Final Test on December 7 (25%).** This test will only assess the student's knowledge of the material covered after the midterm test. Students have 24 hours (from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm Eastern time) to complete the test. The final test will consist of a series of short answer questions.
 - **Readings:** Each week, specific readings (consult course schedule below) are scheduled in the syllabus. Kindly read the scheduled readings by their due date (except for the first lesson). Most readings are available on COURSE RESERVES while other readings will be posted weeks ahead on LEARN or are part of the required textbook. Videos assigned are most valuable as background information in order to facilitate contextualization of readings.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Readings/Viewings Due	Assessment Due
1	Sep 9	Course introduction	READ: Course Textbook Unit 1 (on LEARN, you don't need to read this by September 9)	N/A
2	Sep 14	Early Risorgimento	READ: Course Textbook Unit 2 (on LEARN) READ: <i>The Statuto Albertino</i> (on	

			LEARN) READ: Ippolito Nievo's <i>Confessions of an Italian</i>, Chapter 23 (Course Reserve)	
	Sep 16	Late Risorgimento	WATCH: Alessandro Blasetti's <i>1860</i> (on Learn)	Weekly Quiz 1 on Learn
3	Sep 21	Post-Unification Italy	READ: Course Textbook Unit 3 (on LEARN) READ: Denis Mack Smith's <i>Modern Italy: A Political History</i>, Chapter 9 (on Course Reserve) READ: Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa's <i>The Leopard</i> (COPY TO BE ACQUIRED BY STUDENT)	Discussion 1 due
	Sep 23	<i>Brigantaggio</i> and the Rise of Mafia	READ: Salvatore Lupo's <i>History of the Mafia</i>, Chapter 2 (on Course Reserve)	Weekly Quiz 2 on Learn
4	Sep 28	Giolitti, Belle Epoque and Futurism	READ: Course Textbook Unit 4 (on LEARN) READ: Filippo Tommaso Marinetti's <i>The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism</i> (on Course Reserve)	Discussion 2 due
	Sep 30	First World War (1914-1918)	WATCH: Francesco Rosi's <i>Uomini Contro</i> (on YouTube) READ: Selection from Giuseppe Ungaretti's <i>L'allegria</i> (on Course Reserve)	Weekly Quiz 3 on Learn
5	Oct 5	Rise of Fascism (1918-21)	READ: Course Textbook Unit 5 (on LEARN) WATCH: <i>The Gates of Italy</i> (Documentary) READ: Emilio Gentile's <i>The Struggle for Modernity</i>, Chapter 3 (on	RESPONSE PAPER DUE (1,000 words, 20%) Discussion 3 due

			Course Reserve)	
	Oct 7	Life during Fascism (1920-40)	WATCH: Lina Wertmuller's <i>Love and Anarchy</i> (on Kanopy)	Weekly Quiz 4 on Learn
6	Oct 9-17	READING WEEK		
7	Oct 19	The Second World War	READ: Course Textbook Unit 6 (on LEARN) READ: Paul Ginsborg's <i>A History of Contemporary Italy</i>, CHAPTER 1 (COPY TO BE ACQUIRED BY STUDENT)	Discussion 4 due
	Oct 21	The Resistance and the End of the War	WATCH: Francesco Rosi's <i>Salvatore Giuliano</i> (on Kanopy)	Weekly Quiz 5 on Learn
8	Oct 26	MIDTERM TEST – NO CLASS		MIDTERM TEST (20%) Discussion 5 due
	Oct 28	Birth of the Italian Republic (1946-1948)	READ: Course Textbook Unit 7 (on LEARN) READ: Ginsborg, CHAPTERS 2, 3 READ: The First 12 Articles of the Italian Constitution, pages 5-7	Weekly Quiz 6 on Learn
9	Nov 2	The Italian economic miracle (1950-1968)	READ: Course Textbook Unit 8 (on LEARN) READ: Ginsborg, CHAPTER 7	
	Nov 4	Society during the Italian economic miracle	WATCH: Dino Risi's <i>Il Sorpasso</i> (on Kanopy) READ: Italo Calvino's "Moon and GNAC" (on Course Reserve)	Weekly Quiz 7 on Learn Discussion 6 due
10	Nov 9	Protests of 1968	READ: Course Textbook Unit 9 (on LEARN) WATCH: Marco Bellocchio's <i>Fists in</i>	Discussion 7 due

			the Pocket (on Kanopy)	
	Nov 11	Society after 1968	READ: Ginsborg, CHAPTER 9	Weekly Quiz 8 on Learn
11	Nov 16	The Years of Lead (1970-1980)	READ: Course Textbook Unit 10 READ: Ginsborg, CHAPTER 10	Discussion 8 due
	Nov 18	Society during the Years of Lead	WATCH: Elio Petri's Lulu the Tool (on YouTube)	Weekly Quiz 9 on Learn
12	Nov 23	The Materialist Eighties (1980-1989)	READ: Course Textbook Unit 11 READ: Ginsborg, CHAPTER 11	Discussion 9 due
	Nov 25	Society in the Eighties	WATCH: Luca Guadagnino's Call me by your name	Weekly Quiz 10 on Learn
13	Nov 30	Tangentopoli and Berlusconi	READ: Course Textbook Unit 12 WATCH: Paolo Sorrentino's Il Divo	Discussion 10 due
	Dec 2	Old and New contradictions in Contemporary Italy	WATCH: Alice Rohrwacher's Corpo Celeste	FINAL PAPER DUE (25%)
14	Dec 7	FINAL TEST – NO CLASS		Discussion 11 due FINAL TEST (25%)

POLICY ON LATE WORK, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, AND MAKE-UP TESTS

All assignments must be uploaded by due dates. Any work submitted past the due date requires documentation in order not to be subject to the late work policy (please inform about any work to be submitted late and provide documentation in a timely manner). Work submitted late will be penalized 2% per day up to 7 days after due date. After 7 days, no work will be accepted

CORRESPONDENCE

Students are expected to stay abreast of communication about the course through LEARN. Every Monday, I will post the weekly beginning-of-the-week announcement (on LEARN announcements) which specifies what work to complete for the specific week. Also on Tuesday, starting on September 14, the weekly discussion topic will open for the rest of the week. Other readings, narrated slides, links, miscellaneous announcements, and recommended video clips

will be posted in the labelled lesson folders. Students are thus expected to login on a regular basis.

Students are expected to utilize email appropriately. This implies that appropriate language should be used at all times. Students are also expected to stay abreast of communication about the course through LEARN. The instructor will post slides, links, announcements, recommended readings etc. to the course page on LEARN and therefore students are expected to login on a regular basis. If you have urgent questions concerning the course, **please email the instructor at andrea.privitera@uwaterloo.ca and the instructor will reply within 24-48 hours.**

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Important note on PLAGIARISM during COVID 19:

During COVID 19, the issue of plagiarism has become increasingly pressing. Please understand the various forms that plagiarism may take and that it is a very serious academic offence.

According to the University's Policy 71 (Student Discipline), plagiarism is defined as "...the act of presenting the ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one's own. The use of other people's work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material.... Use of [source material] without complete and unambiguous acknowledgement...is an offence under this policy."

According to UW's Office of Academic Integrity, here are some (though not all) of the types of plagiarism that constitute an academic offence:

- Word-for-word use of part or all of any written work (print or electronic) without quotation marks and/or without citation of the source (footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical citations) and/or without a complete 'works cited' section.
- Word-for-word use of text spans (phrases, sentences, paragraphs, longer segments) patched together from two or more sources without quotation marks and/or without citation of the source and/or without a complete bibliography.
- Word-for-word use of primary source materials without quotation marks and/or without citation of the source and/or without a complete bibliography.
- Word-for-word use of source materials with some text enclosed by quotation marks and provided with citations, but with other text not identified as quoted, and/or not cited, and/or without a complete bibliography.
- Combination of word-for-word use of sources with close paraphrases of source texts, with accurate use of quotation marks and citations (note or parenthetical) to identify word-for-word use, but without citations to identify paraphrases and summaries, and/or without a complete 'works cited'.
- Completely paraphrased material without complete citations and/or without a complete 'works cited'.

- Giving a citation for only the first or last sentence in a paragraph, even though the rest of the paragraph also contains material in need of direct attribution.

In general: A complete and accurate works cited page constitutes only one part of the fulfilment of the requirement for complete and unambiguous acknowledgement of sources. A very large proportion of plagiarized essays do have perfectly or nearly adequate works cited pages. If the paper's reader has to go to (or hunt for), and has to look directly at, the text of the source in order to identify where the student's own thoughts and words end and the source's thoughts and words begin, then the paper is plagiarized.

Intellectual Property: Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, and/or St. Jerome's University. Intellectual property includes items such as: 1. Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof); 2. Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides); 3. Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, mock tests, final exams); and 4. Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, and/or St. Jerome's University for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA, or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Petitions and Grievances](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Appeals](#).

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Mental Health Support on campus and in the community: Please be aware that SJU offers help to students who need mental health support during the semester. Lindsay Thompson is the SJU Wellness Coordinator (Lindsay.thompson@uwaterloo.ca) and is available by email. The UWaterloo Faculty of Arts provides details on available support on its website.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software ([Turnitin](#)[®]) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin[®] is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin[®] in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.