



Degree in International Studies - LM-52

Title of the course: History of Contemporary Italy

Name of the Chair of the course: Simone Paoli

Compulsory/optional course: Optional course

Year of the course and semester: 2018/2019 (First Semester)

ECTS credit: 6

Number of hours: 42

General information and objective of the course

This course has been designed to analyse the political history of Italy from the establishment of the Italian Republic (1946) to the ongoing crisis of the so-called Second Republic (2011-2018); special emphasis will be put on the Italian foreign policy and, more generally, on the Italy's role in the international arena.

On completion of the course, students will have acquired the instruments for grasping, interpreting and discussing critically the most important events in Italian contemporary history and the dynamics behind them: the basic trends of continuity and change, cause and effect, the interplay of regional, national and international influences, and the significance of global events within Italy.

Syllabus

The syllabus and the reading material will be uploaded on the e-learning platform.

Pre-requisites, exams and assessment

There are no pre-requisites for attending this course.

Every week students will be assigned something to read at home from textbooks or other volumes, scholarly journals and newspapers, and they are expected to be able to discuss the contents in class - **readings** must be done in advance.

Each student is expected to present a research paper on a topic previously agreed upon with the instructor - students must transform their **oral presentation** into a **paper** of about 2,000 words.

Students will have to take a mandatory **oral final exam**, which will relate to both readings and class lectures. Upon request, Italian students may sit the exam in Italian.

The final grade will be determined as follows:

10% Class participation

40% Research Paper

50% Final Exam

Structure of the course

After a short introduction aimed at providing basic knowledge of the Kingdom of Italy (1861-1946), Fascist Italy in particular (1922-1943), the course will focus on:

- postwar settlement (1946-1948), including institutional referendum, Treaty of Peace, Constituent Assembly and Constitution, elections for the first Italian Parliament and Italy's Western choice in the context of the outbreak of the Cold War;
- "Economic Miracle" and country's socio-cultural transformation in the context of the Cold War and the early stages of the European integration process (1948-1968);
- "Anni di Piombo" (1968-1978), including Hot Autumn, economic crisis, black and red terrorism, Historic Compromise, Governments of National Solidarity and Aldo Moro's assassination in the context of the Great Détente;
- "Second Economic Miracle" and its contradictions and shortcomings in the context of the Second Cold War and the relaunch of the European integration process (1978-1989);
- transition from the First to the Second Italian Republic (1989-1994), including rise of the Northern League, Bribesville and Mafia offensive in the context of the end of the Cold War and the establishment of the European Union;
- Second Italian Republic between the "Center-Right" and the "Center-Left" in the context of the post-Cold War era (1994-2011);
- transition to a Third Republic in the context of the Italian and European crises (2011-2018).

Classes are structured as lectures, analysis of historical documents, student presentations of research papers and class discussions. Guest lectures from experts will offer students a wider range of points of view on events and trends of the Italy's contemporary history.

Professor's office hours

After class or by appointment. E-mail: simone.paoli@sp.unipi.it