<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class code</th>
<th>POL-UA 9512001</th>
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<td>ITAL-UA 9512001</td>
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| Instructor Details | Name: Alessandro Chiaramonte  |
|                   | NYUHome Email Address: ac161@nyu.edu |
|                   | Office Hours (Villa Ulivi): Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00 p.m. only by appointment |

| Class Details     | Semester: Spring 2016  |
|                  | Full Title of Course: Italian Politics |
|                  | Meeting Days and Times: Tuesdays, 3:00-5:45 p.m. |
|                  | Classroom Location: Montughi (Villa Sassetti) |

| Prerequisites     | None |

| Class Description | This course introduces students to the structure of Italian government and the functioning of Italian politics in practice. It gives a broad overview of the main institutions and players in the Italian system, setting these within a comparative context. The course will emphasize the role of political forces – especially the parties – as well as the formal institutions of the state. |

| Desired Outcomes | On completion of this course, students should: |
|                 | • Have improved their ability to think critically, engage in complex reasoning and express their thoughts clearly through their written and oral works |
|                 | • Have improved their understanding of the methodologies of political science |
|                 | • Have developed a basic knowledge of the Italian political institutions and dynamics |
|                 | • Recognize how an in-depth analysis of a case study such as the Italian political system can be significant for a better understanding of political systems from a comparative perspective |

| Assessment Components | 1. Attendance and Participation: 10% |
|                       | 2. Written Assignment (one 10 pages paper) and oral presentation (15 minutes length on the same subject of the paper): 30% |
|                       | 3. Midterm Exam: 30% |
|                       | 4. Final Exam: 30% |

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

• Participation: grade will be based on attendance and comments during discussions
• Written assignment and oral presentation: Students are expected to write a paper (about ten pages) during the second half of the term. The paper will be
presented in class. A description of possible papers topics will be given by the instructor.

- Exams: both the midterm and the final exams consist of one short essay and 5-6 short answers. The final exam is not cumulative.

**Assessment Expectations**

- **Grade A:** The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays/exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.
- **Grade B:** The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.
- **Grade C:** The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.
- **Grade D:** The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.
- **Grade F:** The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

**Grade conversion**

- A=94-100
- A-=90-93
- B+=87-89
- B=84-86
- B-=80-83
- C+=77-79
- C=74-76
- C-=70-73
- D+=67-69
- D=65-66
- F=below 65

**Grading Policy**

Please refer to Assessment Expectations and the policy on late submission of work.

**Academic Accommodations**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website [http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html](http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance:

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s
final course grade. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.
For courses that meet once a week, one unexcused absence will be penalized by a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. For courses that meet two or more times a week, the same penalty will apply to two unexcused absences.

**Excused Absences:**
In case of absence, regardless of the reason, the student is responsible for completing missed assignments, getting notes and making up missed work in a timely manner based upon a schedule that is mutually agreed upon between the faculty member and the student.

The only excused absences are those approved by the Office of Academic Support; they are as follows:

**Absence Due to Illness**
- If you are sick, please see a doctor (contact the OSL for information).
- Only a medical certificate from a local medical professional will be accepted to justify an absence due to illness.
- Within 24 hours of your return to class you must bring this note to the Office of Academic Support, located on the ground floor of Villa Ulivi. We will review the medical certificate and we will notify your faculty via email about your justified absence due to illness.
- Absences for short term illness without a medical certificate are not justified and count as unjustified absences. We will not accept a student email or telephone call regarding an absence due to illness. We will not notify your faculty about these absences.
- The Office of Student Life, when assisting you in cases of severe or extended illness, will coordinate with the Office of Academic Support to properly record your absences.

**Due to Religious Observance**
- Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.
- Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

**Due to a class conflict with a program sponsored lecture, event, or activity**
- All students are entitled to miss one class period without any penalty to their grade in order to attend a lecture, event or activity that is sponsored by NYU Florence or La Pietra Dialogues, Acton Miscellany or the Graduate Lecture series.
- Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

Students with questions or needing clarification about this policy are instructed to contact a member of the Office of Academic Support located in Villa Ulivi or to email florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu.
| Late Submission of Work | • All course work must be submitted on time, in class on the date specified on the syllabus.
• To request an extension on a deadline for an assignment, students must speak to the professor one week prior to the due date.
• To receive an incomplete for a course at the end of the semester, two weeks before final exams, both the student and the faculty member must meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs to review the request and if granted, they must both sign an Incomplete Contract detailing the terms for completing missing coursework. |
| Plagiarism Policy | PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN ANY FORM:
The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

In the event of suspected or confirmed cases of plagiarism, The faculty member will consult first with the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs as definitions and procedures vary from school to school. Please consult the “Academic Guidelines for Success” distributed on your USB key at Check-in and on the NYU Florence Global Wiki.

For a detailed description of some possible forms of plagiarism and cheating please consult the Community Compact that you signed at Orientation, a copy of which is on the above mentioned Wiki and USB key. |
| The Writing Center | The Writing Center, located in Aula Belvedere in Villa Ulivi, offers you feedback on any type of writing, at any stage in planning or drafting. Sign up for a consultation at wp.nyu.edu/florencewriting/ and submit your working draft or ideas a day in advance to florence.writingcenter@nyu.edu. Drop in for a consultation M-Th, but remember that appointments are given priority. Be assured that very rough drafts are welcome. Please note that we do not correct or “fix” your writing; instead we prompt you to think and work. Our aim is to create stronger writers in the long term, not necessarily perfect papers in the short term. |
• Material distributed in class by the instructor.
• Course packet (available in the library for photocopying), consisting of the following essays:
• Through BOBCAT (NYU Libraries > BobCat > Articles & Databases)

### Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library or available on line)


### Internet Research Guidelines

The careful use of internet resources is encouraged and a list of recommended websites will be given. Failure to cite internet and other non-traditional media sources in your written work constitutes plagiarism.

### Additional Required Equipment

N/A

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<tr>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>Introduction to the course: stereotypes and some questions about Italian politics and society</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
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<tr>
<th>Session 2</th>
<th>The Italian consensus type of democracy and its evolution</th>
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<td>February 9</td>
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<th>Session 3</th>
<th>The long-term transformation of the Italian polity: from the liberal era (1861-1922) to fascism (1922-43); from the ‘First’ Republic (1948-92) to the ‘Second’ Republic (1992-)</th>
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| February 16 | Readings:  
  - Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 1) |
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<th>Session</th>
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<th>Readings</th>
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| Session 4 | February 23 | The Italian electoral and party system in the ‘First’ Republic: the era of proportional representation and polarized multipartitism (Christian Democrats and Communists) | Readings:  
- Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 2, 35-48)  
- Sartori [course packet] |
| Session 5 | March 1 | The Italian electoral and party system from the ‘First’ to the ‘Second’ Republic: the collapse of the old order, the 1993 electoral reform, the emergence of new parties and leaders | Readings:  
- Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 2, 48-66)  
- Chiaramonte 2015 [Bobcat] |
| Session 6 | March 8 | The Italian electoral and party system in the ‘Second’ Republic: the 1994-2008 general elections and the consolidation of the bipolar pattern of competition | Readings:  
- Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 3)  
- Chiaramonte 2015 [Bobcat] |
| Session 7 | March 22 | Towards the ‘Third’ Republic? The electoral earthquake of 2013. The Five Stars Movement (M5s) and its challenge to the established parties | Readings:  
- D’Alimonte [BobCat]  
- Diamanti [BobCat]  
- Biorcio [BobCat] |
| Session 8 | March 29 | Midterm exam | |
| Session 9 | April 5 | The executive branch. The institutional design (parliamentary government). The traditional weakness of Italian cabinets and their transformation in the ‘Second’ Republic | Readings:  
- Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 4) |
| Session 10 | April 12 | The Parliament. Its peculiar bicameral structure and attempts of reform. The law-making process and output. The legislators | Readings:  
- Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 5) |
| Session 11 | April 19 | Local government. The nature of Italian regionalism. The Constitutional reform of 2001. A long path to federalism? | Readings:  
- Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 6) |
| Session 12 | April 26 | Bureaucracy and judicial power. The public sector and its expansion; recent reforms. The organization of the judiciary. Conflict with politics. The case of ‘tangentopoli’ | Readings:  
- Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapters 7-8)  
- Sassoon [course packet] |
| Session 13 | Review class  
| May 3 | Written paper due |
| Session 14 | Final exam  
| May 10 |  |
| Session 15 | Participation in at least one Politics - La Pietra  
| Policy Dialogues event is mandatory. More  
| information: [http://www.lapietradialogues.org](http://www.lapietradialogues.org) |

| Classroom Etiquette | • Eating is not permitted in the classrooms. Bottled water is permitted.  
| | • Cell phones should be turned off during class time.  
| | • The use of personal laptops and other electronic handheld devices are prohibited in the classroom unless otherwise specified by the professor.  
| | • We recycle! So keep it green! Please dispose of trash in the clearly marked recycle bins located throughout the on-campus buildings |

| Required Co-curricular Activities | None |

| Suggested Co-curricular Activities | Suggested optional co-curricular activities will be announced in class and/or via email by the professor throughout the semester |

| Your Instructor | Alessandro Chiaramonte is Professor of Italian Politics at New York University Florence and of Italian Politics and Elections and Electoral Systems at the University of Florence, where he also received his doctorate in political science. He is co-founder of CISE, the Italian Center of Electoral Studies (luiss.cise.it) at the University of Florence and LUISS-Guido Carli in Rome. He has been a Research Fellow in Modern Italian Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and visiting scholar at the Department of Political Science of the University of California San Diego (UCSD). He has published books and articles on elections, electoral systems and party systems. More specifically, his research interests have focused on the functioning and the effects of various types of electoral systems, especially mixed majoritarian-proportional systems, and on the long-lasting electoral transition of the Italian party and political systems, analyzed from both a national and a regional perspective, and the comparative research on party systems and on their changes. |