Class Description:
The course investigates the social function of the family in Italy, from the Fascist dictatorship to the present. We will also analyze models of femininity and masculinity conveyed by the media and their connections to the idea of Italianness.

What is the role of the family in Italy? Italy is well-known for being a family centered society. What are the causes and consequences of this phenomenon? Since the 1960s, the family has undergone a series of changes, due to the women’s movement, decrease of marriages, fall of birthrate, etc. Is the family losing its centrality in Italy? According to some scholars, the family is actually still one of the few shared values in Italy.

The course will also map the condition of women and LGBT people in Italy today.

The imagined Italian community was constructed on the site of the female body which was meant to epitomize a series of values such as fertility, health, prosperity, purity, tradition, etc

Instructor Details:
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Villa Ulivi Office Location: Office n.6, top floor
Villa Ulivi Phone Number:+39 055 5007 300

Desired Outcomes:
The primary objective of this course is to provide participants with an overview of some of the salient issues related to the role of the family and gender roles in Italian society. Upon successful completion of the course, the students will be able to critically evaluate the relevance of the family in Italian society, the relationship between gender and nationhood and how gender relations affected the national process in Italy. By analyzing how the construction of nationhood involves specific notions of ‘womanhood’, the students will be able to trace the historical roots of some social behaviors in Italy. Special emphasis will be placed on the narration of women by Italian media.
Assessment Components
Attendance and Participation: 25%

Written Assignments (two 6 page papers): 25%

Midterm Exam: 30%

Final Exam: 20%

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

Assessment Expectations:

- **Grade A:** The student’s work demonstrates an understanding of the subject that goes beyond assigned course readings. The student writes essays/exam questions that are an original synthesis of source materials, demonstrating the ability to evaluate source material critically. Written arguments are clear, well-organized and well-presented; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student has distinguished himself/herself throughout the course of the semester for his/her contributions to class discussion.

- **Grade B:** The student’s work shows a clear understanding of assigned readings and materials covered in class. The student writes clear, well-organized and well-presented essays/exam questions; oral presentations are concise, incisive and supplemented by appropriate visual materials. The student is prepared in class and asks relevant questions.

- **Grade C:** The student’s work shows a basic understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. However, written and/or oral work is deficient in one or more of the following areas: clarity, organization or content. The student’s work is generally in need of improvement.

- **Grade D:** The student’s work shows occasional understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work is deficient in one of more of the follow areas: clarity, organization or content. The student does not participate in class discussion and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

- **Grade F:** The student’s work does not demonstrate understanding of the subject treated in assigned readings and covered in class. Written and/or oral work are either insufficient or are not submitted. The student appears unprepared in class and has not frequented the instructor’s office hours.

Grading Guidelines

A = 94-100

A minus = 90-93

B plus = 87-89

B = 84-86
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 the Moses Center 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:
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 the number of class times over a single week

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 Office of Student Life for assistance.
• For absences that last for two or more consecutive days, a doctor’s certificate, "certificato medico" is required. The doctor will indicate in writing the number of days of bed rest required. Please note these certificates can only be obtained on the day you see the doctor and cannot be written for you afterwards.
• Absences can ONLY be excused if they are reported WITHIN 48 HRS of your return to class via the online NYU Florence Absence Form
• OAS will not accept a student email or telephone call regarding an absence due to illness
• OAS will only notify faculty of absences REPORTED on the ABSENCE FORM
• 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
• Information regarding absences due to religious observance must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online NYU Florence Absence Form
• Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.

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 La Pietra Dialogues, Acton Miscellany or the Graduate Lecture series.
• Information regarding absences due to a class conflict must be provided at least SEVEN DAYS PRIOR to the date(s) in question using the online NYU Florence Absence Form
• Please note that no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retroactively.

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.

Writing Center

The Writing Center, located in Villa Ulivi, offers you feedback on any type of writing, at any stage in planning or drafting; very rough drafts are welcome. Sign up for a consultation at the Writing Center’s website and submit your working draft or ideas at least six hours in advance to NYU Florence Writing Center. You can drop in for a consultation M-Th, but remember that appointments are given priority. Please also note that the Writing Center does not correct or “fix” your writing but prompts you to think and work. The aim is to create stronger writers in the long term, not necessarily perfect papers in the short term.

Required Text(s):
All required texts can be found on NYU Classes.

Copies of each textbook are available for consultation and short term loans in the Villa Ulivi Library. Extra copies of some textbooks are also available for semester long loans. More information on Books and Course Materials.

Supplemental Texts(s):
(Texts that students are not required to purchase are in NYU-FL 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

Class Assignments and Topics:

Session 1 - September 5
Introduction to the course.

Discussion on women’s condition today, in Europe and in the US. Feminist struggles and achievements in Europe.


Session 2- September 12
Fascist gender and family policies.

S. Gundle, Bellissima, pp.80-106.

Session 3-September 19
The Resistance and the Italian Republic: the birth of a new Italian woman?

Session 4 - September 26
From Banfield’s familism to the Italian television family


Optional reading:
S. Bernini, ‘Family politics, the Catholic Church and the transformation of family life in the Second Republic’, pp. 73-84; M. Marchesi, ‘Reproducing Italians: contested biopolitics in the age of ‘replacement anxiety’, pp.171-188.

Session 5- September 26
Gendering the nation in 1950s Italy and US.


Session 6 - October 10
Mock exam.

Session 7 - October 17
**Violence against women today, in Italy and in the US.**

E.Bambara, ‘The Roots of Femicide’, pp.1-5; S.Fiske,'From Dehumanization and Objectification, to Rehumanization: Neuroimaging Studies on the Building Blocks of Empathy'  
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3777639/

Review

Session 8 - October 24
Midterm Exam

Session 9 - November 7
**The status and narration of women in Italian and American television and cinema**

The Daily Beast article ;

O'Leary, ‘Scapegoating the velina: The left and the body
Session 10 - November 14
The social impact of capitalism: the Family today.
R. Sennett, *The Corrosion of Character*, chaps. 1 and 8;

Session 11 - November 21
Lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans­gendered people: heteronormativity in a Catholic country.
E. Bolongaro, ‘Representing the un(re)presentable: Homosexuality in Luchino Visconti’s *Rocco and His Brothers*’, pp. 223-36.

Meeting with activists of an LGBTI association.

Session 12 - November 28
Sexism and racism.
Session 13 - December 5  
Collective discussion and review

Session 14 - December  
*PLEASE NOTE THAT ATTENDANCE AT TWO LECTURES SCHEDULED OUTSIDE OF REGULAR CLASS TIME IS MANDATORY. DATES TBA*

Session 15 - December 12  
Final Exam

**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**
Attendance at two lectures outside of regular class time is required.

Exact dates and locations TBA.

**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**
After graduating in Italy, Natalia did an MA at UCL London and then earned her PhD from Royal Holloway, U. of London. She has been teaching at various American Universities for about 20 years.