Fall 2018 - SOCIAL FOUNDATION III
SFIII-UF 9103 F01
TU, TH 10.30 to 11.45
Ulivi, Giardino

Class Description:
[Place here any official NYU prerequisites as they appear on the NYU Study Abroad Florence website]

This course focuses on the rise and peak Western modernity at its peak – between the end of the 18 and the mid 20th century. Students will discuss the rise and crisis of the European bourgeois society, analyse the main critiques, focusing on aspects such as

- capitalism
- colonialism
- gender
- democracy
- nation State
- liberalism

Instructor Details:
Name: Debora Spini
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Office Hours: T 12 to 2
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Desired Outcomes:
On completion of this course, students should:

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- Have improved their ability to think critically, engage in complex reasoning and express their thoughts clearly through their written work
- Have improved their understanding of the methodologies of history of political thought
- Have mastered a basic understanding of how to research questions in Social Foundations
- Recognize works by the principal protagonists of this course) and understand why they are significant for political thought
Assessment Components
Course requirements include two in-class tests (mid term and final), and two take home essays. The two in-class exams will be composed of a few questions (2 or 3) to be answered in the form of a short essay.

The two take home papers should be of approx. 6 pages typed (font 12, 250 words per page) and double-spaced, for a total of 1500 words minimum. Unjustified delay in submitting take-home work will negatively affect your grade (half a grade for each day of delay). Please refer to the sheet “DOs and DONTs” For Papers (to be distributed with the first essay questions) for guidelines in composing papers.

- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Written Assignments (two 3 page reaction papers): 20% each
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%
- Failure to submit or fulfil 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
[Please use this standard grade conversion]

A = 94-100
A minus = 90-93
B plus = 87-89
B = 84-86
B minus = 80-83
C plus = 77-79
C = 74-76
C minus = 70-73
D plus = 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 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 [Please use this standard text]
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 sources will be posted on NYU classes or will be available on the internet.

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 are in NYU-FL Library or available online.

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:
[Art supplies or other equipment (graphing calculator) for class would go here. If none are required please list N/A]

Class Assignments and Topics:

Session 1
September 4 and 6
Introduction to the class
The Age of the Bourgeoisie

READ:
The Philadelphia Declaration
Rousseau, Discourse on the Origins of Inequality

Session 2
September 11 and 13
Capitalism
READ:
Smith the Wealth of Nations, Book I and Book IV ch. VII
Smith Theory of Moral Sentiments. Part IV

Session 3
September 18 and 20
Beginning of socialism

Revolution

READ:
Communist Manifesto
Lenin State and Revolution
September 18

Session 4
September 25
September 27 LPD DIALOGUE FEMINISM Prof. Banerjee

Feminism

READ:
Report of the Womens Rights Convention
J Stuart Mill, On the Subjection of Women

Session 5
October 2
October 4

Feminism II
Marxism and Feminism

READ:
Virginia Woolf, A room on one’s own
Marx, Holy Family

October 3: 2-6 pm LPD Conference on RACE

Session 6
October 9 and 11 First assignment due

Politics and the Nation State

READ:
Max Weber Politics as Vocation
**Session 7**  
October 16  
October 18  

The darker side  

READ:  
Freud: Discontent of civilization  

**Session 8**  
October 23  
October 25  
Review  

Mid term test  

**Session 11**  
November 6  
November 8  

Colonialism/ Postcolonialism  

READ:  
Gandhi, The quit India Speeches  
Nehru, the Dangerous alliance between religion and politics  

**Session 12**  
November 13  
November 15  

Cast and Class  

READ:  
Ambedkar, The Annihilation of Caste  

**Session 13**  
November 20  
November 22  Second writing assignment due  

Fascism /Nazism
READ:
H. Arendt, on Totalitarianism

Session 14
November 27
November 29
Holocaust: Banality of Evil

READ:
Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem
Bauman, Modernity and the Holocaust

Session 15
December 4
December 6

Holocaust, continued
Review

Tuesday December 11
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
Students will be required to participate in specific LPD DIALOGUES:

LPD DIALOGUE ON FEMINISM AND INTERSECTIONALITY, SEPTEMBER 18 2-4 PM PROF AMRITA BANERJEE, IIT MUMBAI

LPD DIALOGUE ON RACE, OCTOBER 3, 2 TO 6 PM

Additional required co-curricular activities will be announced in class or via nyu classes
Suggested Co-curricular Activities
Additional suggested optional co-curricular activities will be announced in class and/or via email by the professor throughout the semester.

Your Instructor
Debora Spini is the author of various essays and book chapters in English and Italian on topics such as the transformation of public spaces, crisis of the modern self, secularisation and post secularisation. Her research interest currently focus on the topic of Religion and political conflict, with a special concentration on gender as well as on monotheism and violence. She has published in Italian an English on Gender, religion and violence, on the transformation of public spheres, on post secularisation. On these topics she has given lectures and participated in conferences and seminars in Europe, US, India and Brasil. Most recently her research interests have included the rise of right wing populism, on which theme she has published various essays in Italian an English.
Spini is a member of various scholarly societies – such as the Società Italiana di Filosofia Politica and the Società Italiana di Teoria Critica.