

FALL 2019 – ITALIAN POLITICS
POL-UA 9512001, ITAL-UA 9512001
Tuesdays, 3:00-5:45 pm
Classroom: SASSETTI_MONTUGHI

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.

Instructor Details:

Name: Alessandro Chiamonte

NYUGlobalHome Email Address:

Office Hours: Tuesdays, before or after class only by appointment

Villa Ulivi Office Location:

Villa Ulivi Phone Number:

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:

- Attendance and Participation: 10% (grade will be based on attendance and comments during discussions)
- Written Assignment (one 10 pages' paper) and oral presentation (15 minutes length, on the same subject of the paper): 30% (students are expected to write a paper 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).
- Midterm Exam: 30% (the midterm exam consists of one short essay and 5-6 short answers).
- Final Exam: 30% (the final exam consists of one short essay and 5-6 short answers and is not cumulative).

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

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.

Grading Guidelines

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](#)

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- 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.academicssupport@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.

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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):

- M. Cotta and L. Verzichelli, *Political Institutions in Italy*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2007. •

Material distributed directly in class or via mail by the instructor.

- The following essays are available through Nyu Classes/Resources:
 - G. Sartori, *A Typology of Party Systems*, in P. Mair (ed.), *The West European Party System*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1990, pp. 316-349.
 - D. Sassoon, *Tangentopoli or the Democratization of Corruption: Considerations on the End of Italy's First Republic*, in «Journal of Modern Italian Studies», vol. 1, 1995, pp. 124- 143.
 - A. Chiaramonte, *The unfinished story of electoral reforms in Italy*, in «Contemporary Italian politics», vol. 7, issue 1, 2015.
 - R. D'Alimonte, *The Italian elections of February 2013: the end of the Second Republic?*, in «Contemporary Italian politics», vol. 5, issue 2, 2013, pp. 113-129.
 - I. Diamanti, *The 5 Star Movement: a political laboratory*, in «Contemporary Italian politics», vol. 6, issue 1, 2014, pp. 4-15.
 - A. Chiaramonte, V. Emanuele, N. Maggini, A. Paparo, *Populist Success in a Hung Parliament: The 2018 General Election in Italy*, in «South European Society and Politics», first view, 1-22. doi:10.1080/13608746.2018.1506513

- R. D'Alimonte, *How the populists won in Italy*, in «Journal of Democracy», vol. 30, issue 1, 2019, pp. 114-127.
- J.A. Davis, *A Tale of Two Italys? The "Southern Question" Past and Present*, in E. Jones and G. Pasquino (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Italian Politics*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2015.

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):

- P. Ginsborg, *A History of Contemporary Italy, Society and Politics, 1943-1988*, Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1990.
- D. Hine, *Governing Italy. The Politics of Bargained Pluralism*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 1993.
- M. Bull and M. Rhodes (eds.), *Crisis and Transition in Italian Politics*, London and Portland, Frank Cass, 1997.
- S. Gundle and S. Parker (eds.), *The New Italian Republic: from the Fall of the Berlin Wall to Berlusconi*, London and New York, Routledge, 1997.
- J. Newell, *Parties and Democracy in Italy*, Aldershot, Ashgate, 2000.
- M. Bull and M. Rhodes (eds.), *Italy – A contested Polity*, London and New York, Routledge, 2009.
- N. Conti and F. Marangoni (eds.), *The Challenge of Coalition Government. The Italian Case*, Routledge, 2015.
- E. Jones and G. Pasquino (eds), *Handbook of Italian Politics*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2016.
- G. Mammarella, *Italy from reconstruction to decline 1943-2016: the roots of the Italian crisis*, Fiesole (Fi), Cadmo, 2017.

Texts that students are not required to 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

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Class Assignments and Topics:

Session 1 - [September 3]

Introduction to the course: stereotypes and questions about Italian politics and society

Session 2 - [September 5, exceptionally 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in Aula Siena, Villa Ulivi]

The Italian consensus democracy. A comparative perspective.

Session 3 - [September 17]

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 (1993-)

Readings: Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 1)

Session 4 - [September 24]

The Italian electoral and party system in the 'First' Republic: the era of proportional representation and polarized multipartitism

Readings: Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 2, pp. 35-48)

Sartori [Nyu Classes]

Session 5 - [October 1]

The Italian electoral and party system in the 'Second' Republic: electoral reforms and the consolidation of the bipolar pattern of competition

Readings: Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 2, pp. 48-66; Chapter 3)

Chiaramonte 2015 [Nyu Classes]

Session 6 - [October 8]

The electoral earthquake of 2013: the rise of the Five Stars Movement and the end of the bipolar party system

Readings: D'Alimonte 2013 [Nyu Classes]

Diamanti [Nyu Classes]

Session 7 - [October 15]

The election of 2018: a consolidation of tripolarism or a step to a new bipolarism?

*Readings: Chiaramonte et al. 2018 [Nyu Classes]
D'Alimonte 2019 [Nyu Classes]*

Session 8 - [October 22]

Mid-term exam

Session 9 - [November 5]

The executive-legislative relationships and role of the President of the Italian Republic. The executive branch. The traditional weakness of Italian cabinets and their transformation in the 'Second' Republic.

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Readings: Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 4)

Session 10 - [November 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 - [November 19]

Local government. The nature of Italian regionalism. The Constitutional reform of 2001. A long path to federalism?

*Readings: Cotta & Verzichelli (Chapter 6)
Davis [Nyu Classes]*

Session 12 - [November 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 [Nyu classes]*

Session 13 - [December 3]

Review class

Session 14 - [December 10]

Final exam

Session 15 -

Participation in at least one event (conference, seminar, talk) organized at NYU (see On campus calendar) is mandatory.

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

N/A

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, Parties and Public Opinion 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 was 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.

