



# Italian Politics

**Course Number**

POL-UA 9512 F01  
SOC-UA 9506 F01  
ANTH-UA 9077 F01  
ITAL-UA 9512 F01

**Instruction Mode:**

In-person

**Brightspace course site**

<https://brightspace.nyu.edu/d2l/home/164402>

**Spring 2022**

If you are enrolled in this course 100% remotely and are not a Study Away student for NYU Florence, please make sure that you've completed the online academic orientation via Brightspace so you are aware of site specific support structure, policies and procedures. Please contact [florence.academicssupport@nyu.edu](mailto:florence.academicssupport@nyu.edu) if you have trouble accessing the Brightspace site.

**Syllabus last updated on:** 20 January 2022

**Lecturer Contact Information**

TBA

**Prerequisites**

None

**Units earned**

4

**Course Details**

- Tuesday from 3:30pm to 6:15pm
- All times are Central European Time (CET) Please note that there is a gap in when Daylight Savings Time (DST) begins in Europe and the U.S. In the U.S., DST begins on Sunday, 13 March 2022 when clocks will be set 1 hour forward. In Europe, DST begins Sunday, 27 March 2022.
- Location: Rooms will be posted in Albert before your first class.
- Remote Participants: Your instructor will provide you with the Zoom link via NYU Brightspace.



- COVID-related details: In the interest of protecting the NYU Florence community, we are closely following CDC guidance around COVID-19 and adjusting our recommendations and policies accordingly. Your health and well-being is our top priority.

### Course 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.

### Course Objectives

On completion of this course, students should: 1. Have improved their ability to think critically, engage in complex reasoning and express their thoughts clearly through their written and oral works; 2. have improved their understanding of the methodologies of political science; 3. have developed a basic knowledge of the Italian political institutions and dynamics; 4. 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 class activities; and quizzes)
- Written Assignment (one 10 pages' term paper) and oral presentation (on the same subject of the paper): 30%; students are expected to write the 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 a timed test (5-6 short answers) and an open-book take-home (2 essay questions).
- Final Exam: 30%; the final exam consists of a timed test (5-6 short answers) and an open-book take-home (2 essay questions). It is not cumulative.

You are expected to attend class in person or remote synchronously. Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

### Attendance Policy

*In order to keep each other safe, if you are not feeling well, we encourage you to remain in your residence and, if possible, attend class remotely.*

*Please make sure to inform your professor in advance so that they can turn on Zoom. Remote attendance is counted as regular attendance. You will not be marked absent.*

For a detailed explanation of the global attendance policy, see the NYU Florence [Present vs. Absent Flowchart](#).

Exams, tests and quizzes, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation.

The Global Attendance Policy is posted in the Academic Policies tab in [Brightspace](#), on the [NYU Florence Student Portal](#) website, and is posted around campus.

After you have read and reviewed the policies, if there is anything that still needs further clarification or raises a question, please reach out to [florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu](mailto:florence.academicsupport@nyu.edu).

**Final exams**

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Should there be a conflict between your final exams, please bring this to the attention of the Academics team. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave the site before the end of the finals period.

**Late Submission of Work**

Please refer to Academic Policies in [Brightspace](#).

**Required Text(s)**

All readings are available online on the NYU Brightspace course site. Hard copies of some textbooks are available for consultation and semester-long loans in the [Villa Ulivi Library](#). Please email [florence.library@nyu.edu](mailto:florence.library@nyu.edu) to reserve a copy. To request scans from books on reserve please fill out the [Ulivi Library Book Scan Form](#).

**Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)**

- 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, London & New York, 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.
- J. Newell, *Silvio Berlusconi: a study in failure*, Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2019
- G. Pasquino, *Italian Democracy: How It Works*, Routledge, London & New York, 2020.

**Additional Required Equipment**

In presence students are suggested to carry their own laptop to class

**Session 1 - [01 February 2022]**

Introduction to the course:

- Issues and stereotypes in Italian politics
- The importance of a comparative perspective

**Session 2 - [08 February 2022]**



The historical roots of the current Italian political system

- Italy's unification and the 'liberal era'
- Mussolini and the 'fascist era'

Readings:

- M. Cotta and L. Verzichelli, *Political Institutions in Italy*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2007, Chapter 1

### **Session 3 - [11 February 2022]**

The 'First' Republic (1948-1992)

- The building of the democratic institutions
- The party system: a case of polarized pluripartitism

Readings:

- G. Sartori, *A Typology of Party Systems*, in P. Mair (ed.), *The West European Party System*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 1990, pp. 316-349
- M. Cotta and L. Verzichelli, *Political Institutions in Italy*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2007, Chapter 2, pp. 35-48

### **Session 4 - [15 February 2022]**

The transition from the 'First' to the 'Second' Republic

- Why did the 'First Republic' collapse?
- The new (mixed, but predominantly majoritarian) electoral system

Readings:

- 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
- M. Cotta and L. Verzichelli, *Political Institutions in Italy*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2007, Chapter 2, pp. 48-52

### **Session 5 - [22 February 2022]**

The (brief) consolidation of the 'Second Republic': the era of bipolarism and Berlusconi

- The disappearance of old parties and emergence of new parties
- From parties to coalitions, and leaders
- Towards a new (bipolar) party system
- Berlusconi and berlusconism



Readings:

- M. Cotta and L. Verzichelli, *Political Institutions in Italy*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2007 (Chapter 2, pp. 52-66; Chapter 3)
- J. Newell, *Silvio Berlusconi: a study in failure*, Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2019, Introduction & Chapter 10

### **Session 6 - [01 March 2022]**

The 'Second Republic' 'into the storm' (1): the 2013 electoral earthquake

- The hit of multiple crises
- The Five Stars Movement and the populist wave
- The 2013 general election

Readings:

- 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

### **Session 7 - [08 March 2022]**

The 'Second Republic' 'into the storm' (2): the populists in power

- The 2018 general election, a second electoral earthquake
- The Italian party system between tripolarism and de-institutionalization

Readings:

- A. Chiamonte, V. Emanuele, N. Maggini, A. Paparo, *Populist Success in a Hung Parliament: The 2018 General Election in Italy*, in «South European Society and Politics», vol. 23, pp. 479-501
- R. D'Alimonte, *How the populists won in Italy*, in «Journal of Democracy», vol. 30, issue 1, 2019, pp. 114-127

### **Session 8 - [22 March 2022]**

Mid-term exam

No class

### **Session 9 - [29 March 2022]**

The executive-legislative relations: Italy as a case of parliamentary government



- Differences between parliamentary and presidential governments
- The President of the Italian Republic: continuity and change in the role of the Head of the State

Readings:

- G. Pasquino, *Italian democracy: how it works*, Routledge, London & New York, 2020, Chapter 6

### **Session 10 - [05 April 2022]**

The executive branch

- The traditional weakness of Italian cabinets and their transformation in the 'Second' Republic
- The 'strange' case of technocratic governments

Readings:

- G. Pasquino, *Italian democracy: how it works*, Routledge, London & New York, 2020, Chapter 5

### **Session 11 - [12 April 2022]**

The Parliament

- The peculiar bicameral structure and attempts of reform
- The law-making process and output
- The legislators

Readings:

- M. Cotta and L. Verzichelli, *Political Institutions in Italy*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2007, Chapter 5

### **Session 12 - [19 April 2022]**

Local government

- Territorial issues in the history of unified Italy
- The nature of Italian regionalism.
- The Constitutional reform of 2001.
- A long journey to federalism has come to an end?

Readings:



- 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
- M. Cotta and L. Verzichelli, *Political Institutions in Italy*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2007, Chapter 6

### **Session 13 - [26 April 2022]**

Burocracy and judicial power

- The public sector and its expansion
- Recent reforms
- The organization of the judiciary
- Conflict with politics

Readings:

- M. Cotta and L. Verzichelli, *Political Institutions in Italy*, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2007, Chapters 7 & 8

### **Session 14 - [03 May 2022]**

Review class

Written term paper due

### **Session 15 - [13 May 2022]**

Final exam

### **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 Lecturer**

Alessandro Chiaramonte is Professor of Italian Politics at New York University Florence and of Political Science, 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](http://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.

### **Academic Honesty & Plagiarism**

As the University's policy on "[Academic Integrity for Students at NYU](#)" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.

NYU takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form, and may check your assignments by using TurnItIn or another software designed to detect offences against academic integrity.

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. It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you **MUST** inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

[NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines](#)

[NYU Library Guides](#)

### **Inclusivity Policies and Priorities**

NYU's Office of Global Programs and NYU's global sites are committed to equity, diversity, and inclusion. In order to nurture a more inclusive global university, NYU affirms the value of sharing differing perspectives and encourages open dialogue through a variety of pedagogical approaches. Our goal is to make all students feel included and welcome in all aspects of academic life, including our syllabi, classrooms, and educational activities/spaces.

#### [Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays](#)

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent due to religious observance should notify their lecturer and Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Academics Office will schedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments. Please note that an absence is only excused for the holiday but not for any days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. See also [University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays](#)

#### [Pronouns and Name Pronunciation \(Albert and Zoom\)](#)



Students, staff, and faculty have the opportunity to add their pronouns, as well as the pronunciation of their names, into Albert. Students can have this information displayed to faculty, advisors, and administrators in Albert, NYU Brightspace, the NYU Home internal directory, as well as other NYU systems. Students can also opt out of having their pronouns viewed by their instructors, in case they feel more comfortable sharing their pronouns outside of the classroom. For more information on how to change this information for your Albert account, please see the [Pronouns and Name Pronunciation website](#).

Students, staff, and faculty are also encouraged, though not required, to list their pronouns, and update their names in the name display for Zoom. For more information on how to make this change, please see the [Personalizing Zoom Display Names website](#).

### Moses Accommodations Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto:mosescsd@nyu.edu)) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. Accommodations for this course are managed through NYU Florence.

### Bias Response

The New York University Bias Response Line provides a mechanism through which members of our community can share or report experiences and concerns of bias, discrimination, or harassing behavior that may occur within our community.

Experienced administrators in the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) receive and assess reports, and then help facilitate responses, which may include referral to another University school or unit, or investigation if warranted according to the University's existing Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy.

The Bias Response Line is designed to enable the University to provide an open forum that helps to ensure that our community is equitable and inclusive.

To report an incident, you may do so in one of three ways:

- Online using the [Web Form \(link\)](#)
- Email: [bias.response@nyu.edu](mailto:bias.response@nyu.edu)
- Phone: 212-998-2277
- Local Telephone: 055 5007277