

Florence Semester program – Institute at Palazzo Rucellai

HIST 300 / POLSC 430: History and Politics of Modern Italy

Credits: 3

Instructor: TBA

Schedule: TBA

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the history and politics of modern Italy from the Risorgimento to the present. The major topics covered include the unification process, the liberal state, Italian fascism, the Second World War and the Cold War, the workings of governing institutions in the post-war period with consideration of the postwar constitution and state, the role of the Church, political parties and movements, the European unification process, black and red terrorism, as well as political corruption and political conspiracy. There will also be detailed discussion of the crises and transformation of the post-war Italian political system in the early 1990s.

The course seeks to provide students ample conceptual knowledge about Italy and its modern history and politics, so that they may come to evaluate issues in Italian politics knowledgeably. Students should gain a command not only of the "facts" of modern Italian political history--the dates of key events, the importance of major personalities, and such—but also of the dynamics involved: the basic trends of continuity and change, cause and effect, the interplay of regional, national and international influences, and the significance of global events within Italy.

By the end of the course, students should be well acquainted with modern Italian history and politics, governing institutions, parties and electoral rules, Italy's role in the EU and NATO and its complex relationships to the United States.

Course descriptions may be subject to occasional, minor modifications at the discretion of the instructor.

Textbooks:

Readings include, but are not limited to, selections from the following:

B. Turner, ed.. Italy Profiled. NY, 2000.

R. King. Italy. London, 1987.

G. Holmes, ed. The Oxford Illustrated History of Italy. Oxford, 2001.

P. Ginsborg, A History of Contemporary Italy. London, 1990

Italy and its Discontents. London, 2001.

M. Frei. Italy – The Unfinished Revolution. London, 1996.

J.L.Newell. Parties and Democracy in Italy. Ashgate, 2000.

During orientation at the Institute, students will receive a list of textbooks they are required to purchase. Students should not purchase any texts before orientation.