OVERVIEW
The statesman Massimo d’Azeglio is said to have said, “Now that Italy is made, we have to make Italians.” Whether or not he actually said these words, they seem to have struck a chord: It’s hard to find a history of Italian Unification that does not cite them. But what did it mean to make Italians? When Italy became a constitutional monarchy in 1861, most people living in the peninsula and islands identified more strongly with their local communities than with the abstract idea of Italy. In this course we will look at the relationship between cultural production and national identity, asking how literary, visual, musical, and culinary forms contributed to the making of “Italy” and “Italians.” Which elements of the diverse culture of the peninsula, diaspora, colonies, and islands were glorified and which were excluded in production of Italy as an imagined community?

This course will prepare students for life in a globalized world by introducing them to the ways in which humans come to understand themselves as members of social, religious, national, and regional collectives.

REQUIRED TEXTS
- Christopher Duggan, A Concise History of Italy (available through Ebook Central)
- Paul Ginsborg, A History of Contemporary Italy 1943-1988 (selections will be available on Classes)
- Alexander Stille, The Sack of Rome
- Luisa Passerini, Autobiography of a Generation
- Elio Vittorini, Conversations in Sicily
- Ennio Flaiano, A Time to Kill (selections will be available on Classes)
- Primo Levi, The Periodic Table (selections will also be available on Classes)

OUTCOMES
By the end of the semester, students should:
- have an understanding of the ways in which Italian national identity is imagined and produced in representative literary, visual, and musical texts from the early 19th century to the present;
- be able to identify, analyze, and contextualize key episodes and texts of modern Italy;
- have improved their ability to read and think critically, engage in complex reasoning, and express their thoughts effectively in writing;
- have improved their understanding of the methods and sources used in historical research and cultural studies.

BASIC INFORMATION
Professor Rebecca Falkoff, rrf210@nyu.edu, 401 Casa Italiana, M. 12.30-1:30, W. 1-2 & by appt.

Recitation Instructors
- Emily Antenucci, eca302@nyu.edu, 9:30-10:30 MW & by appt. Second Floor Lounge, Casa Italiana
- Antranik Cassem, kac732@nyu.edu, W 3-5 pm at 19 University Place, Room 317 (3rd Floor)
**GRADE BREAKDOWN**

Recitation Participation and Lecture Attendance…………………………………….20%
Short response papers (~500 words) and other recitation assignments…….20%
Midterm paper (~1000 words)………………………………………………………….10%
Midterm exam…………………………………………………………………………15%
Final paper (~1500 words)……………………………………………………………15%
Final exam………………………………………………………………………………20%

**ASSESSMENT EXPECTATIONS**

- This course follows the College Core Curriculum grading guidelines, which are available here:  
  http://cas.nyu.edu/content/dam/nyu-as/casCore/documents/GradingGuidelines.pdf

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings, including all lectures and recitations. Missing more than two lectures and more than one recitation will lower your participation grade. You should come to lectures and recitations having already read the texts listed on the syllabus for that day. All students are expected to participate in recitation discussions. Please sign the attendance sheet at each lecture meeting. Absences may be excused for documented medical or personal emergencies. Reasonable accommodations will be made for the observance of religious holidays. Please contact your Recitation Instructor in advance in cases of foreseeable absences or as soon as is practicable in cases of unforeseen emergencies. You are responsible for making up any material or assignments you miss.

**MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS**

The midterm exam will cover material from weeks one through seven. It will include multiple choice, short, and long answer questions. The final exam is cumulative and will be a similar format.

**PAPERS**

You will be required to three complete short response papers during the course of the semester, which should be handed in on Wednesday before 11:59 pm. (That will leave your Recitation Instructor time to read them before your Friday section). Response papers should be roughly 500 words. Recitation Instructors may assign additional short writing assignments and/or quizzes.

There will also be one midterm paper and one final paper. Prompts for these papers will be uploaded to classes at least eleven days before the papers are due. Please use 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced with one-inch margins, with your last name and the page number included in the footer of each page. Papers should be uploaded through the Assignments section of Classes.

**MUSEUM VISIT AND CASA EVENTS**

Please attend at least one event at the Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò. The “Dante and…” series might be of particular interest. You should also visit the Marino Marini exhibition at the Center for Italian Modern Art (CIMA) in SoHo on your own. Admission is free; the exhibition opens on October 17, 2019. More information is available on the CIMA Website: https://www.italianmodernart.org/.

**EXTENSIONS**

Papers should be handed in before class begins on the day they are due. If a family or personal emergency is interfering with your studies, please meet with your advisor and make an appointment to meet with me and your section instructor.

**READINGS AND LECTURE NOTES**

All readings will be uploaded to the Resources section of NYU Classes. Slides from lecture will be uploaded at the end of each week. Please print all primary sources of fewer than ten pages before your recitation and bring a copy with you. Recitation Instructors will specify which readings you should have on hand in class.

**LAPTOP, TABLET, AND CELL PHONE POLICIES**
The use of laptops, tablets, and cell phones is not allowed during class except by students with a documented learning accommodation. Please silence or power off your cell phones before class.

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT**
Learning to express your ideas clearly in writing is a never-ending process. The Writing Center can help you to identify the areas in which you struggle and aid you in developing your writing skills: [www.nyu.edu/students/undergraduates/academic-services/writing-center.html](http://www.nyu.edu/students/undergraduates/academic-services/writing-center.html). I am also happy to meet with you discuss the material we cover in class, writing assignments, any questions you may have or anything else. You are welcome to come to office hours just to chat—that’s what office hours are for!

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**
During the first two weeks of the semester, please notify your Recitation Instructors of any planned absences due to religious holidays. Details on NYU’s policy may be found at: [https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html](https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/university-calendar-policy-on-religious-holidays.html).

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**
Academic accommodations are available for students who need them. Students requesting academic accommodations should reach out to the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities as early in the semester as possible at (212)-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu. Further information is available on the Moses Center: [https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities.html](https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities.html).

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**
All plagiarized work will be reported to the Director of the College Core Curriculum. Please familiarize yourself with NYU’s policy on academic integrity and with the statement issued by the Core College Curriculum Office:
- [https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html](https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html)
- [http://cas.nyu.edu/content/dam/nyuas/casCore/documents/AcademicIntegrity.pdf](http://cas.nyu.edu/content/dam/nyuas/casCore/documents/AcademicIntegrity.pdf)

**CALENDAR**

**Week One**

**W 9/4**  
Lecture: Introduction to the course: What is modern Italy?

**Section**  
Readings: Introduction to Benedict Anderson’s *Imagined Communities*; Étienne Balibar, “The Nation Form: History and Ideology”; Canto VI of Dante’s *Purgatory*, Chapter XXVI of Niccolò Machiavelli’s *The Prince*

**Week Two – Duggan, “The Emergence of the National Question”**

**M 9/9**  
Lecture: Treaty of Campo Formio, Napoleonic Italy, Canova and Neoclassicism

**Readings:** Ugo Foscolo, *The Last Letters of Jacopo Ortis*; Madame de Staël, “The Spirit of Translation”

**W 9/11**  
Lecture: Romanticism, Italy in Europe, Europeans in Italy

**Readings:** Leopardi, “To Italy” and “Discourse on the Present State of Italian Customs,” “An Italian’s Discourse about Romantic Poetry”

**First Reading Response paper due – Submit it through Classes by 11:59 pm**

**Section**  
Gramsci, “The Concept of National-Popular”

**Week Three, Duggan, “Italy United”**

**M 9/16**  
Lecture: Alessandro Manzoni, Niccolò Tommaseo, the language question
Readings: *The Betrothed*, Chapters I, II, IX, XV

**W 9/18** Lecture: Revolutionary consciousness, Verdi’s *Nabucco*, the Macchiaioli painters, Giuseppe Mazzini
Readings: “Va’ pensiero” (Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves) from Verdi’s *Nabucco*; Mazzini, “Manifesto of Young Italy,” Guido Gozzano, “Grandma Hope’s Friend”

**Section** Review, discussion of paper prompts, close-readings

**Week Four, Duggan, “The Liberal State and the Social Question, 1870-1900”**

**M 9/23** Lecture: Giuseppe Garibaldi, Unification, and the making of the Italian South
Midterm paper assigned

**W 9/25** Lecture: Making Italians

**Section** Reading: Gramsci, “The Southern Question”

**Week Five, Duggan, “Giolitti, the First World War, and the Rise of Fascism”**

**M 9/30** Lecture: Three Capitals + Naples – Modernity and the metropolis, the *risanamento* of Naples, Queen Margherita’s visit to Naples

**W 10/2** Lecture: Emigration, Italian diasporas, Libya, Futurism
Readings: Giovanni Pascoli, “The Great Proletarian has Risen!”
Watch Giovanni Pastrone’s *Cabiria*, F. T. Marinetti, “Founding and Manifesto of Futurism”
Second Reading Response paper due – Submit it through Classes by 11:59

**Section** Silent cinema in Italy, Futurism

**Week Six, Duggan, “Fascism”**

**M 10/7** Lecture: WWI; the mutilated victory, D’Annunzio at Fiume, Irredentism
Readings: Italo Svevo, *Zeno’s Conscience*, irredentist cartoons on Classes

**W 10/9** Lecture: March on Rome, Fascism, Lateran Treatise, modernization, everyday life under Fascism, clips from Fellini’s *L’Amarcord* and Bertolucci’s *Il conformista*
Elio Vittorini, *Conversazioni in Sicilia*, selections from Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*

**Section** Read Mussolini’s Ascension Day Discourse (1927)
Midterm paper due – submit it through Classes

**Week Seven**

**M 10/14** No class

**W 10/16** Review for Midterm

**Section** Midterm Exam

**Week Eight, Paul Ginsborg, A History of Contemporary Italy, Chapters 1-3**

**M 10/21** Lecture: Race, empire, alliance with Hitler
Readings: Primo Levi, selections from *the Periodic Table*, Ennio Flaiano, *A Time to Kill*
W 10/23  Lecture: War, Liberation, Civil War
Readings: Curzio Malaparte, “The Flag” and “General Cork’s Banquet” from The Skin
Section  Ardeatine massacres, Alessandro Portelli’s The Order Has Been Carried Out;
Week Nine
M 10/28  Lecture: Neorealism
Watch Rome Open City
W 10/30  Lecture: Suffrage, Constitutional referendum, Christian democracy, Labor,
Readings: A. Banti, Artemesia (selections), Calvino, Path to the Nest of Spiders
Third Reading Response paper due – Submit it through Classes
Section  Discussion postwar literature and film
Week Ten, Ginsborg, A History of Contemporary Italy, Chapters 5-7
M 11/4  Lecture: Economic boom, made in Italy, design, sexuality, Casa chiuse, Enrico Mattei and the Seven Sisters, Cold war in Italy
Readings: Luciano Bianciardi, It’s a Hard Life
W 11/6  Lecture: The Gruppo 63, neo-avant-garde in art and literature, Arte Povera, Autonomia
Readings: Umberto Eco, “The Death of the Gruppo ‘63”
Section  Antonioni, Fellini
Week Eleven, Ginsborg, Chapters 8-9
M 11/11 Lecture: 1968 in Italy and beyond
Luisa Passerini, Autobiography of a Generation
Final paper assigned
W 11/13  Piazza Fontana bombing and the years of lead, Italian feminisms
Carla Lonzi, Let’s spit on Hegel
Dario Fo, Accidental Death of an Anarchist
Section  Discussion of readings
Week Twelve, Ginsborg, Chapter 10
M 11/18  Aldo Moro and the historic compromise
Reading: Leonardo Sciascia, The Moro Affair
W 11/20 Seveso, slow food, ecocriticism, ecofeminism
Readings: Laura Conti’s “A Hare with the Face of a Child” in Italian Environmental Literature: An Anthology, pp. 257-273; Carlo Petrini’s Slow Food Manifesto
Section  Final paper due
Week Thirteen
M 11/25  Lecture: Mani pulite, the end of the First Republic, media, rise of Berlusconi, Paolo Borsellino and Giovanni Falcone
Readings: Alexander Stille, The Sack of Rome
Thanksgiving Break
Week Fourteen
M 12/2  Immigration, new Italians, racism, media, Berlusconi, Italian biopolitical thought
Readings: Paul Ginsborg, Italy and Its Discontents, pp. 249-324; watch Popolo della libertà 2008 campaign song video, “Meno male che Silvio c’è”
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>W 12/4</td>
<td>The politicization of immigration, neo-fascisms, the Five Star Movement</td>
<td>Edoardo Nesi, <em>Story of My People</em>; Luca Guadagnino, <em>I Am Love</em></td>
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<td>Section</td>
<td>Discussion of contemporary Italy</td>
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<td>M 12/9</td>
<td>Lecture: Italy today: exuberance and epic</td>
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<td>Readings</td>
<td>Watch Paolo Sorrentino’s <em>The Great Beauty</em>; selections from Elena Ferrante’s <em>Liliad</em></td>
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<td>W 12/11</td>
<td>Conclusions / Review</td>
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Final Exam
Monday December 16, 10:00 -11:50