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Italian politics and the international system: resilience and change

Overview

Area: International Relations

Dates: June 28 – July 9

Course number: IR/PO325

Campus: Milan

Term: Summer 2021

Credits: 6 ECTS

Course Description

Contemporary international processes of change have underlined Italy's sensitiveness to international dynamics and interests, highlighting his nature of political border between Eastern (Russia and China) and Western (the United States) international Great Powers; between Northern (Europe) and Southern regions (the Middle East and North Africa); between developed and developing countries; between 'the decline of the West and the rise of the Rest'. How have contemporary international processes influenced Italian politics? Is international disorder disordering the Italian social and political order? The Italian case highlights, on the one hand, contemporary international issues arising from the process of transition of international power and its related governance structures and, on the other hand, institutions and internal patterns of adaptation and transformation of internal political and social structures.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have a solid grasp of the basics of Italian political and social structures; they will be familiar with the most important issues in the contemporary Italian debate, and aware of processes of change in its political constituencies, parties and stakeholders, foreign policies, and identities. In addition, they will have a knowledge on how contemporary international and intra-State political and social structures relate to and influence each other.

Course contents

The course is divided into three parts. The first part focuses on the construction of and historical change in Italian political and social structures in relation to the international system and its transformation; the second part focuses on identity, interests, platforms and goals of contemporary Italian political parties; while the third part focuses on the contemporary processes of change, both in Italy's foreign policies and the international system.

Method of teaching

The first part of the course will consist of lectures. In the second and third parts of the course, and depending on the number of students, some sessions will be introduced by a student (or a small group of students) presentation (15-20 minutes), which can be supported by the assigned readings. The issues raised by the presentation and by the essential readings will foster a discussion led by the instructor, which will constitute the bulk of the class. The instructor will then conclude by briefly (10-15 minutes) summarizing the most important points made during the discussion.

Course requirements

- a. Students are expected to regularly attend sessions and to actively take part in debate;
- b. Before each class, students are expected to have read the compulsory readings (and are strongly



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- advised to read the recommended readings);
- c. Students are required to orally present one of the topics outlined in the syllabus according to the instructor's instructions;
 - d. Students will have to take a final written exam.

Credits

6 ECTS

Grading

Presentation	1/3 of final grade
Final written exam	2/3 of final grade

Course readings and materials

All the readings and the lecturer's slides will be available on Blackboard.

Key Readings

FIRST PART

- Brighi E., *Foreign Policy, Domestic Politics and International Relations: The Case of Italy*, Routledge, 2013
- Grieco J., Ikenberry J. G., Mastanduno M., *Introduction to International Relations. Enduring Questions and Contemporary Perspectives*, Palgrave, 2015, 31-67; 355-451
- Väyrynen R., "Bipolarity, Multipolarity, and Domestic Political Systems", *Journal of Peace Research* 32:3 (1995) 361-371

SECOND PART

- Bellucci P., Garzia D., Lewis-Beck M. S., "Understanding electoral politics in contemporary Italy: policy preferences, personalisation, partisanship and the economy", *Contemporary Italian Politics* 9:1 (2017) 3-7
- Di Mauro D., Verzichelli L., "Political elites and immigration in Italy: party competition, polarization and new cleavages", *Contemporary Italian Politics* 10:3 (2019) 1-14
- Jones E., Pasquino G. (eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Italian Politics*, OUP, 2015
- Leonardi R., *Government and Politics of Italy*, Palgrave, 2017
- Mosca L., Tronconi F., "Beyond left and right: the eclectic populism of the Five Star Movement", *West European Politics*, 42:6 (2019) 1258-1283
- Pasquino G., "The Disappearance of Political Cultures in Italy", *South European Society and Politics* 23:1 (2018) 133-146

THIRD PART

- Andreatta F., "Italian Foreign Policy: Domestic Politics, International Requirements and the European Dimension", *Journal of European Integration* 30:1 (2008) 169–81
- Carati A., Locatelli A. "Cui prodest? Italy's questionable involvement in multilateral operations amid ethical concerns and national interest", *International Peacekeeping* 24:1 (2017) 86–107
- Carbone M., "The Domestic Foundations of Italy's Foreign and Development Policies", *West European Politics* 30:4 (2007) 903–23



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- Cladi L., Webber M., “Italian Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Period: A Neoclassical Realist Approach”, *European Security* 20:2 (2011) 205–19
- Giacomello G., Bertjan V. (eds.) *Italy's Foreign Policy in the Twenty-First Century. The New Assertiveness of an Aspiring Middle Power*, Lexington Books, 2011
- Isernia P., Longo F., “The Italian foreign policy: challenges and continuities”, *Italian Political Science Review* 47:2 (2017) 107–124
- Romano S., “Italian Foreign Policy after the End of the Cold War”. *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* 14:1 (2009) 8–14
- Romero F., “Rethinking Italy’s shrinking place in the international arena”, *The International Spectator* 51:1 (2016) 1–12

Rules Of Conduct

Exam Date: exam dates communicated in the syllabus for the midterm and final cannot be re-scheduled. Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

In cases of unforeseeable circumstances such as illness or injury on the day of the exams, the student must submit a medical certificate and communicate his/her absence to the Professor and UCSC International Office via email **prior** to the exam. If the student does not justify his/her absence through sufficient documentation and with adequate notice before the final test, the student will receive an automatic Failed.

Schedule¹

Lesson 1: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE –
Presentation of the course: aims, organization, class-by-class overview.
Assignments: suggestions on how to successfully complete the course.

FIRST PART. THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM AND ITALY

Lesson 2: MULTIPOLARITY AND THE ITALIAN STATE: FROM THE BIRTH OF THE STATE TO THE END OF FASCISM
Lesson 3: BIPOLARITY AND THE FIRST REPUBLIC
Lesson 4: UNIPOLARITY AND THE SECOND REPUBLIC
Lesson 5: CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL TRANSITION OF POWER AND THE THIRD REPUBLIC

SECOND PART. CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN POLITICS

Lesson 6: SUMMARISING CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN POLITICS: CLEAVAGES, NETWORKS, AND STAKEHOLDERS
Lesson 7: THE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES (M5S, LEGA, PD, FORZA ITALIA, FRATELLI D’ITALIA, +EUROPA): IDENTITY, GOALS, CONSTITUENCIES, DISCOURSES

THIRD PART. ITALY AS A BORDER

Lesson 8: A NEW POLITICAL CLEAVAGE OR THE REBRANDING OF LEFT AND RIGHT?
Lesson 9: ITALY, EUROPE, AND THE EUROPEAN UNION
Lesson 10: ITALY AND THE MEDITERRANEAN
Lesson 11: ITALY AND THE TRANSATLANTIC COMMUNITY
Lesson 12: ITALY AND THE RISING GREAT POWERS: RUSSIA AND CHINA
Lesson 13: (WRAPPING UP) THE ITALIAN CASE: EXAMPLE OR EXCEPTION?

¹ This outline is to be considered **provisional and subject to change**: Students are invited to propose topics of interest and to suggest changes to the course structure. Changes are obviously all at the instructor’s discretion.



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Course Evaluation

At Cattolica we highly value student opinions as they are among our most important resources for assessing and improving the quality of teaching.

The course evaluation will be available on the Blackboard two weeks before the end of the course.

Note that you will not be able to view your final grade if you do not submit the survey for the course.

The survey is made of multiple choice questions and open questions. The evaluations will remain anonymous. Professors will receive an average score of each answers (except for the open question).

Instructor Bio

Alessandro Quarenghi is a Lecturer in International Politics at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, where he teaches on International Relations, International Relations of the Middle East, and Economic Geography. He holds a degree in Law, a PhD in International Relations, a Specialization in International Economics and Politics, and Masters Degrees in Postcolonial Politics and Cross-cultural Mediation. His work focuses on International Order, US foreign policy, Middle Eastern Order and security issues.

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