



## **ITAL 401: Attualità e cultura italiana**

**Course Syllabus**  
**Fall Semester 2023**

**Instructor:** Luca Gatti

**Credits:** 3

**Contact Hours:** 45

**Prerequisites:** none

**Class Meeting Days & Time:** TBD

**Office Hours:** by appointment after a class or via Zoom (see Moodle site)

**Email:** lucagatti2010@gmail.com

**Course Type:** Standard Course

**Course Fee:** USD\$ 80

### **Course Description**

This course provides a review of Italian Culture and history, where students will live. After an introduction about the history of the XIX century, the first part of the course will cover the Risorgimento in which we'll discover Perugia's important role; the movement towards national unity, and the impact of the First World War and Fascism. The second part of the course will focus on the postwar Republican era.

The aim of this course is to offer students a complete introduction to Italian culture, and to showcase themes of contemporary Italian history. The course pursues these goals through lectures, readings, site trips, films, discussions and, most importantly, walking tours. Some of the readings used in this course analyze the historical development of the country while others offer a choice of interpretations of some key historiographical themes.

### **Course Materials**

#### Readings

A course reader, including all the indicated readings, will be available. The course's Moodle site is the primary location for readings and assignments.

### **Assessment**

Attendance	10%
Biweekly Moodle Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	40%

### **Grading**

Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to note the dates of exams and other assignments. No alternative exam dates will be offered and professors are not required to give partial credit for any late work (they do so at their discretion: the Institute's default policy is no extensions and a zero for any work turned in late). Students who book travel when they have an exam or other assessment will have to change their plans or accept

a zero. Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-	90% - 92%	Excellent
B+	87% - 89%	Superior
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C	73% - 76%	
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	Low Pass
D	63% - 66%	
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

**Please note:** decimal numerals between 1-4 are rounded down while 5-9 are rounded up: e.g., expect 89.4 to be 89.0 while 89.5 to round up to 90.

### Course Requirements

Grades are based on the following criteria.

#### *Attendance (10%)*

Attendance is an important part of this course. You have two “sick days,” per Institute policy. As long as you are at all the other meetings, you will receive the full 10% for this part of your grade. There are no make-ups offered for attendance.

#### *Quizzes (20%)*

Students will be assigned one short quiz every week, will be due before class time and will not be reopened. The quiz will be on Moodle and it is not timed. Students can take the quiz as many times as they like, with the recorded grade being the highest grade they receive. There will be a combination of *technical*, *methodological*, and *content questions*. The content questions will help students zoom in on the most important ideas of the readings. The technical questions will help students learn the class’ policies and administrative procedures. The methodological questions will test on skills that will pop up every week, like finding an author’s argument and assessing sources.

#### *Midterm Exam (30%)*

It consists of a series of questions. It will be closed-book and closed-notes. The exam focuses on in-class lectures, the reading materials presented during the course. It takes approximately 90 minutes to complete. Exams are evaluated on the basis of specificity, detail, accuracy, knowledge, logic, insight, and clarity.

#### *Final Exam (40%)*

The final exam will cover all material from the course. It will be closed-book and closed-notes and will consist of essay questions. A review guide will be distributed to students a week before the exam. The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.

### **Extension & Submitting Late Work**

Work submitted after the deadline will receive a grade of zero, not partial credit. Each student is allowed one extension of 24 hours over the entire semester. This can be used for any assignment but the final project. Students need to email the instructor before the deadline and inform the instructor of their use of the extension. Any work submitted after the 24-hour extension will be marked zero. As for all policies, exceptions can be made by the Director for students with special accommodations or in case of medical emergencies, etc.

### **Attendance & Lateness Policy**

Class attendance (in person or through live connection) is mandatory. All students are allowed 2 “sick days” (i.e. unexcused absences), which do not need to be justified. It is the student’s responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity. i.e., sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class. More than 2 absences will affect your final grade by 2% per absence. Excessive unexcused absences (8 or more) may result in a failing grade or disciplinary action. Three late arrivals to or early departures from class will count as an unexcused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the number of absences or late arrivals for each course, and to ask the instructor when in doubt.

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. Any work missed in class because of an excused absence may be made up within one week of the return to the class. Any work missed that was a quiz or other test must be made up outside of class time and will, in the interest of intellectual honesty, be a slightly different test than the one given in class.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important. Missing a mandatory field trip for a course, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to Umbra staff in a timely manner, will be considered the equivalent of two unexcused absences. As such, absence from the co-curricular field trip will lower students’ final grade in that course by 4% (the equivalent of two unexcused absences). The absence policy for the Italian courses may be different than for that of the courses in English.

Additional absences relating to illness may be approved by the Director but only if a medical certification is provided. Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason. Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

### **Academic Integrity**

All forms of cheating (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and plagiarism (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

### **Classroom Policy**

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate respect for the historical premises that the school occupies. Please note that cell phones must be set on silent mode before the beginning of each class. Computers and other electronic devices cannot be used during class lectures and discussions for anything other than note-taking, unless there has been a specific academic accommodation.

## Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

### WEEK 1

#### **Introduction to Italian Culture**

##### Meeting 1: Italian culture

Introduzione al corso di **Cultura italiana**. Descrizione del programma, analisi delle lezioni e full immersion nella realtà italiana

##### Meeting 2: “Le città e i borghi”

Analisi dell’Italia contemporanea partendo dalla divisione tra Città e Borghi, differenze, analisi e prospettive

##### Readings for the week:

Claudio Bacilieri, *I Borghi più belli d’Italia. Il fascino dell’Italia nascosta.*, Società Editrice Romana, 2022

Carmen Bizzarri and Roberto Micera, *The Valorization of Italian “Borghi” as a Tool for the Tourism* abstract 2021 of Development of Rural Areas

### WEEK 2

#### **Il Risorgimento**

Meeting 1: Storia dell’Unità d’Italia (1815-1870): Firenze Capitale (1866-1871)

Meeting 2: Perugia 1859, *The New York Times* e la famiglia Perkins –

##### Readings for the week:

Andrea Possieri, *Sovranità condivisa e legittimità pontificia. Il caso delle «stragi di Perugia»* (abstract 1-3)

Antonio Chiavistelli, «Una potenza accanto alle potenze». *Firenze Capitale d’Italia (1865-1870)* (abstract 17-18)

### WEEK 3

#### **L’emigrazione italiana ieri e oggi (1860 - 2023)**

Meeting 1: L’emigrazione italiana ieri

Meeting 2: L’emigrazione italiana oggi

##### Readings for the week:

Matteo Sanfilippo, *Cronologia e storia dell’emigrazione italiana* (abstract)

Enrico Pugliese, *Quelli che se ne vanno*, il Mulino

### WEEK 4

#### **Il 900, la prima guerra mondiale e la letteratura (Ernest Hemingway)**

Meeting 1: La Belle Epoque in Italia. Il Futurismo

Meeting 2: La Prima Guerra Mondiale, l’Italia e l’intervento USA

##### Readings for the week:

Piero Melograni, *Storia politica della Prima Guerra Mondiale (1915-18)*, Mondadori Editore (*handouts*)

Ernest Hemingway, *Addio alle Armi*, Mondadori Editore

#### WEEK 5

##### **Il Fascismo**

Meeting 1: Conseguenze della Prima Guerra Mondiale

Meeting 2: Fascismo e primo antifascismo

##### Readings for the week:

Antonio Scurati, *M. Il figlio del secolo*, Bompiani Editore (*handouts*)

Gaetano Salvemini, *Lettere americane*, Donzelli Editore (*handouts*)

Luca Gatti, *Trentasei*, la violenza fascista, Bertoni Editore (*handouts*)

#### WEEK 6

##### **1945: Freedom**

Meeting 1: La Resistenza e la liberazione

Meeting 2: Il rapporto con gli USA

##### Readings for the week:

Marta Bonsanti, *La liberazione di Firenze, delle città d'arte e della Toscana nell'opinione pubblica anglosassone* (Pag 297-298)

Beppe Fenoglio, *Il partigiano Johnny*, Einaudi (*handouts*)

Film: *Il partigiano Johnny*

#### **Semester Break**

#### WEEK 7

##### **Dopoguerra: Italia e Stati Uniti**

Meeting 1: Italia e Stati Uniti, il Piano Marshall e la Nato

Meeting 2: “La Ricostruzione” dell’Italia

##### Readings for the week:

Mauro Campus, *L'Italia, gli Stati Uniti e il piano Marshall : 1947-1951*, Il Mulino Edizioni (*handouts*)

Italo Calvino, *L'avventura di due sposi*, Einaudi (*handouts*)

Film: Vittorio De Sica, *Ladri di biciclette*

#### WEEK 8

##### **La Dolce Vita**

Meeting 1: Il boom economico

Meeting 2: *La Dolce Vita*, significato, storia e attualità

##### Readings for the week:

Giuseppe Lupo, *Gli anni del nostro incanto*, Marsilio Editore (*handouts*)

Film: Federico Fellini, *La Dolce Vita*

## WEEK 9

### Il Made in Italy

Meeting 1: Storia del Made in Italy

Meeting 2: Italian Brands

#### Readings for the week:

Marco Fortis, *Il Made in Italy*, il Mulino (*handouts*)

*Handouts*

Film: Paolo Sorrentino, *La Grande Bellezza*, Indigo Film-Medusa Film

## WEEK 10

### La cucina italiana

Meeting 1: Storia e attualità

Meeting 2: La cucina regionale

#### Readings for the week:

Alberto Capatti e Massimo Montanari, *La cucina italiana. Storia di una cultura*, Laterza Editore (*handouts*)

Pellegrino Artusi, *La scienza in cucina e l'arte di mangiar bene*, (*handouts*)

Stanley Tucci, *La mia vita attraverso il cibo*, Baldini+Castoldi Editore

## WEEK 11

### La Mafia

Meeting 1: Storia della Mafia

Meeting 2: La Mafia oggi e la fine dei "Corleonesi"

#### Readings for the week:

Luigi Garlando, *Per questo mi chiamo Giovanni. Da un padre a un figlio il racconto della vita di Giovanni Falcone*, Bur Edizioni (*handouts*)

Salvatore Lupo, *La mafia, centosessant'anni di storia*, Donzelli Editore (*handouts*)

## WEEK 12

### I giovani italiani e l'Europa

Meeting 1: L'euro, l'Erasmus, l'Unione Europea

Meeting 2: L'inverno demografico

#### Readings for the week:

*Handouts*

Istituto Giuseppe Toniolo, *La condizione giovanile in Italia. Rapporto giovani 2022*, il Mulino

*Handouts:* Osservatorio Giovani. Il Progetto Erasmus

Film: *L'appartamento spagnolo*

## WEEK 13

### Final Exams and Special Academic Events Week

TBA