**CAS IR 322: TOPICS IN ITALIAN AND EUROPEAN POLITICS**

**Italian Democracy: the Veneto case**

Instructor: Prof. Marco Almagisti (Università di Padova)
email: marco.almagisti@unipd.it
Office hours: Wednesday 11.00am, Dipartimento di Studi Storici e Politici, Via Del Santo 28
Class will meet Mondays and Wednesdays 3.30-5.30pm
Number of hours: 40
Credits: 4

**COURSE SUMMARY:**
The course is divided into two distinct yet closely related parts.

Part 1: Political change and quality of democracy in Italy. Quality of democracy and social capital. The role of intermediary bodies. The role of political parties after WWII. The issue of territory in Italian History. The turning point in the 1970’s. Italy under the eyes of the U.S.: Robert Putnam’s research, findings, interpretations. Political parties’ transformations and the search for a higher quality of democracy.

Part 2: The *Veneto* and its long transition into an Italian region. Modernization and secularization in the Veneto and Italy. From emigration to immigration in the Veneto and Italy. The reawakening of the territories. The emergence of territorial and autonomous Political parties. Italian politics changes when the main political party in the Veneto changes. The momentous mobilization of the *Lega Nord* party and its relationship with the Italian political system.

Integrant part of the course will be a visit to the Council of the Veneto Region to explore how it functions, date TBA.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**
a) students will learn about Italian democracy in comparison with the United States
b) learn about the institutions and the main actors of Italian political system
c) learn about the Veneto and its political, economic and social components

**STRUCTURE:**
The lessons will be structured in various ways, from lectures, to seminars, and discussion sessions. Students will take turns introducing class readings. This will ensure that students learn the necessary terminology and analytical skills necessary to the study of Italian democracy and Italian political system.

**GRADING CRITERIA:**
The final grade will be calculated using the following parameters:

- 15% class participation
- 10% class oral presentation
- 25% oral Mid-term exam
- 25% final oral exam
- 25% final paper
- Students are encouraged to actively participate in class, ask questions and demonstrate understanding of material.

- Students are required to do course readings before class meets.

- Oral presentations will be structured in class by the professor. Students will individually present the readings for the day, will make connections with material already explained, and will prepare questions for their class-mates.

- The mid-term exam will be written. A series of open questions will test knowledge and understanding of material studied.

- The final oral exam will test knowledge of all material and concepts studied for the course.

- The 8-10 page final paper (Times New Roman 12, line spacing double) will be handed in to the professor the 11th week of the course. The subject of the final paper will be decided between the professor and the student. The professor will have individual meetings with students to advise them on how to structure their work.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Class notes, slides, and articles taken from the *Bulletin of Italian Politics* and from *South European Politics and Society* will be distributed in class by the instructor.

Texts included in the essential bibliography can be purchased at the local Feltrinelli bookstore.

Further readings will be available at the library of Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, Università di Padova.

**Essential Bibliography:**


**Further readings:**


**DETAILED COURSE SYLLABUS:**

**WEEK 1- February 27 and 29**
Presentation of course objectives, course content, and grading criteria.
Introduction to general concepts relative to Italian Democracy

**WEEK 2 - March 5 and 7**
Italian Democracy in detail: definitions, evolution and various forms.

Readings:  

**WEEK 3 - March 12 and 14**
The main questions being addressed in contemporary democracies. Elections, political cultures and electorate behavior.
Elements for comparison between Italy and the United States.

Readings:  

**WEEK 4 - March 19 and 21**
The quality of democracy. Definitions and extent of variation in empirical research.

Readings:  

**WEEK 5 - March 26 and April 4**
Social capital and the role of intermediary bodies.

Readings:  

**April 13: Midterm Exam**
**WEEK 6 - April 16 and 18**
The role of political parties. Evolution of history and comparison of models. American models of political parties, and political parties in Europe and Italy. The issue of territory in Italian History and mediation proposed by the parties. To understand democracy lets study it from the ground up: Robert Putnam’s research. Interpretations and other reflections.


*Group discussion of final paper topics*

**WEEK 7 - April 23 and 27**
Territorial political subcultures and national political parties. Comparison between the Veneto and Tuscany.


*Class oral presentations*

**WEEK 8 - May 2nd**
The transformation of political parties: the turning point in the 1970’s and the unresolved issues. Italy’s “long” transition in the 1990’s.


**WEEK 9 - May 7 and 9**
The transformation of the territories: the Veneto in an ever changing Italy. The new functions of the local government.


*Class oral presentations*

**WEEK 10 - May 14 and 16**
Italy and the Veneto in the current globalization process. Immigration and a variety of integration policies.


May 21st: *Final oral exam*
May 23rd: *Final Paper due*

**ATTENDANCE**
Boston University Padova students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trips required for the class. Students should note that attendance will be taken into account by faculty when determining final grades. Students absent from class for medical reasons need to provide a local doctor’s note.

**PLAGIARISM**
Simply stated, plagiarism is taking another’s work and presenting it as you own. Dictionary definitions of plagiarism frequently include terms such as ‘theft’ or ‘steal’. Plagiarism is, in fact, intellectual theft. It is one of the most serious forms of academic misconduct. Plagiarism committed by a student will certainly result in course failure and may result in suspension or dismissal. For more details please see Boston University’s *Code of Student Responsibilities*: [http://www.bu.edu/lifebook/university-policies/policies-code.html](http://www.bu.edu/lifebook/university-policies/policies-code.html)

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**
Boston University’s Office of the University Registrar states: ‘The University, in scheduling classes on religious holidays and observances, intends that students observing those traditions be given ample opportunity to make up work. Faculty members who wish to observe religious holidays will arrange for another faculty member to meet their classes or for cancelled classes to be rescheduled.’ See Chapter 151C of the General Laws, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.