

MCAS HP MH 255 / MCAS IT HP 245 syllabus

Course Title: **Contemporary Italian Society & Culture**

Course Code and Number of Credits: MCAS HP MH 255 / MCAS IT HP 245 (3 CREDITS)

Instructor: Dr. F. Chisari PhD

Course Description:

This class satisfies requirements in the following areas: Anthropology/Politics/History/Italian Studies

This course is focused on the study of some peculiar social, cultural and political aspects that have characterised the evolution of contemporary Italian society. Starting from a general overview of today's Italian society, the course draws a general portrait of 20th century Italy as far as its cultural, social and political issues are concerned: fascist mass-organisations; political participation; regional identities; gender issues and feminism; cultural consumption; the media system; food and fashion; sport; the mafia.

The course is based around standard history texts of Contemporary Italy; further lectures, discussions, and assignments will integrate primary cultural, literature, musical and cinematic sources.

Prerequisites: None

Mandatory Fieldtrips:

- Catania (included in the Catania historical orientation tour)
- Palermo (included in the Palermo weekend tour)

Required Texts:

Forgacs, D./Lumley, R. (eds), Italian Cultural Studies. An Introduction, Oxford University Press, Oxford: 1996;

McCarthy, P., Italy since 1945, Oxford University Press, Oxford: 2000;

Sassoon, D., Contemporary Italy, Economy, Society and Politics since 1945, Longman, London: 1997.

Additional Fees Payable on Site: None

Objectives:

To examine the system of 20th century Italian society in order to have a better understanding of its peculiar structures.

Assessment:

(20%) Paper

(15%) Presentation

(25%) Midterm exam

(30 %) Final exam

(10%) Participation

Country and Program Connection:

The students will have the possibility to interact with the country through some field trips which will allow them to deepen the skill provided by lectures. They will visit, in particular, Catania and Palermo, as scheduled for all students enrolled in MCAS courses.

This class, examining the social structure of contemporary Italy, assists students to explore Italy.

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Course Outline:

Week 1	Class 1	Presentation of the course
	Class 2	Contemporary Italian society: an overview Readings: McCarthy, chapter 1, pp. 10-29; Sassoon, Introduction.
Week 2	Class 3	Political parties and popular participation Readings: Forgacs, chapter 6; McCarthy, chapter 3; Sassoon, chapter 8, pp. 131-143; chapter 14.
	Class 4	Mass-organisations and social control in fascist Italy Readings: Cannistraro. Chisari
Week 3	Class 5	The economic boom and the modernization of Italian society Readings: McCarthy, chapter 2; Sassoon, chapters 1-3.
	Class 6	The economic boom and the modernization of Italian society Viewing of the movie "C'eravamo tanto amati"
Week 4	Class 7	The Catholic church and its influence Readings: McCarthy, chapter 6; Forgacs, chapter 7; Sassoon, chapter 8, pp. 149-160.
	Class 8	Gender relations and Feminism Readings: Forgacs, chapter 8; McCarthy, chapter 1, pp. 30-36; Sassoon, chapter 7, pp. 107-122.
Week 5	Class 9	The Media: a Geography of the Media Readings: Forgacs, chapter 10; Sassoon, chapter 8, pp.160-172.
	Class 10	The Media: the Press Readings: Forgacs, chapter 11.
Week 6	Class 11	The Media: Radio and TV Readings: Forgacs, chapter 13.
	Class 12	The Media: Popular Music Readings: Forgacs, chapter 18; McCarthy, chapter 9, pp. 186-190.
Week 7	Class 13	The Media: Italian Cinema Readings: Forgacs, chapter 12; McCarthy, chapter 10.
	Class 14	The Media: Italian Cinema Viewing of the movie "Nuovo Cinema Paradiso"
Week 8	Class 15	Review

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	Class 16	MIDTERM examination
Week 9		Fall/Spring break
Week 10	Class 17	Cultural consumption Readings: Forgacs, chapter 15.
	Class 18	"Italian Style" and the allure of "Made in Italy" Readings: Forgacs, chapter 17
Week 11	Class 19	Sport: Mass-sport vs Professionalism in fascist Italy Readings: Chisari.
	Class 20	Sport: from cycling to "calcio" Readings: McCarthy, chapter 8.
Week 12	Class 21	"Pizza, pasta & co.": The importance of food and cooking Readings: Dickie.
	Class 22	Regional identities: Readings: Forgacs, chapter 4-5; McCarthy, chapter 1, pp. 36-41. Sassoon, chapter 13.
Week 13	Class 23	The Mafia: Readings: McCarthy, chapter 7.
	Class 24	The Mafia Viewing of the movie "In another country"
Week 14	Class 25	Presentations by the students
	Class 26	Course Review
Week 15	Class 27	FINAL Examination