National Identity and the Global World: The Italian Case

main class instructor: Ernesto Livorni

11 credits

MAIN CLASS

Literature in Translation 410
Italian National Identity

LINKED CLASS

Political Science 140
Introduction to International Relations

Economics 101
Principles of Microeconomics

What is a national identity in the context of the fluid globalized world in which we live? How are identities affected by big migratory waves within the same country and, more importantly, from one country or continent to another? The Italian case is one of the many in the so-called Western world that can help us to monitor the possible answers to these questions. Through readings and discussions, we will follow the history of Italy from the Risorgimento (the revolutionary upheaval that led to the unification of the country in 1860) through the two World Wars, and Fascism up to the present time.

One of the aims of the main FIG seminar is to analyze the rhetoric used in different periods to understand issues of national identity according to the following historical phases: struggle for the unification of Italy; colonial campaigns; Fascism; and migration from and to Italy in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Through this study of the Italian case, you will become more knowledgeable and aware of the historical development of a European country that was central in the nineteenth century for its struggle to unify, and crucial to the history of the Western countries for the infamous Fascist regime. By studying the Italian case especially through the concerns raised by colonialist politics and migration issues, you will be able to relate not only to what happened and is happening in one major country in Europe, with possible references to the situations in France and Germany, but also to similar issues in the United States (the Italian migration to the United States is a good example). The goal is to help you develop and strengthen their knowledge of a different culture and history as it intersects with your own.

Political Science 140: “Introduction to International Relations” — This class covers the major issues in international relations since the end of World War II including: the causes of war; civil wars and ethnic conflict; economic development; international trade; exchange rates and international monetary relations; international capital flows and financial crises; foreign direct investment; globalization and the environment; international organizations like the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization; and international law and human rights. The focus is on states’ relations with each other and the factors determining the nature and outcomes of these international interactions. The course seeks to develop analytical tools for thinking about important questions in world politics regardless of the countries or issues involved, to examine international affairs in a systematic way.

Economics 101: “Principles of Microeconomics” — This course covers economic problems of individuals, firms and industries with emphasis on value, price, and distribution of income.
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figs.wisc.edu/2019fall49  FIG 49 • Fall 2019

Enrolled in a FIG and you change your mind?

FIG classes are designed to be taken together. When you enroll in a FIG, you are signed up for these classes as a whole group, not as separate classes.

Dropping one FIG class means ending your enrollment in all of the classes in the FIG.

So, here's what you should know if you want to drop the FIG:

- You can drop all the classes on your own at enroll.wisc.edu. Any non-FIG class will not be affected.
- After classes begin, if you need to drop a single class within the FIG, please contact Kari Fernholz (see below) to review your situation. If necessary, she will provide the required authorization to drop the class.
- Wednesday, September 11, 2019 is the last day to drop a class without it appearing on your college transcript.
- Friday, September 13, 2019 is the last day to add a class without first getting department permission.