

GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: SOCI 478: **Social & Economic Development of Italy**
Credits: 3 Credits
Instructor: **Pierluca Birindelli, Ph.D.**



Study Abroad, 502 E. Boone Ave, Spokane, WA 99258-0085 • (800) 440-5391 • www.gonzaga.edu/studyabroad • studyabroad@gonzaga.edu

Office Hours: by appointment (pierluca.birindelli@email.it) and/or directly after class

Meeting times: Tuesday: 15:35 - 18:15

Course description and objectives

This course introduces students to the key approaches for the study of relationships between society and economy. In the light of social relations in contemporary economy, we shall focus on the links between social, cultural and economic capital. This course will especially emphasize social exchange theory, network analysis, and social stratification. The modernization process and its effects on individual and collective identities will be studied within the conceptual and interpretative framework of the course. The concepts and theories of the first part of the course will be applied to the study of Italian national and local development, with a special focus on: family and intergenerational relationships; regional differences; corruption-collusion and organized crime. A comparative perspective (Italy, Europe and United States) will be the analytical backbone of the course.

To achieve a holistic representation of the sociological phenomena investigated, we will analyze the role of social capital not only within the field of economic development, but also in the field of political and civic development. Finally, the assumption that all social capital is positive will be critically examined.

The basic concepts (theories, paradigms etc.) adopted – and shared with the students – are part of Sociology, Social Psychology, Cultural Studies and Cultural Anthropology. The narrative approach will be our “discipline glue”.

Method

The course has a seminar format. Lectures will introduce the main topic, with the support of slides synthesizing concepts, paradigms, theories and examples extracted from the readings. You will be divided in groups of three, carry out in-class exercises and report on them. Experiential work will be used to elaborate concepts raised throughout the course.

Course requirements, participation and attendance

Throughout this course you are expected to engage in active participation by contributing your thoughts, ideas and questions. To do so it is crucial that you study the required readings and are ready to share your opinions on the topics discussed in class. Course requirements include a midterm exam, an autobiographical paper and a research paper.

The *autobiographical paper* (5-10 pages) consists of the reconstruction of the student social, cultural and economic capital (family position on the social stratification, biographical itinerary etc.).

The *research paper* (10-15 pages) is about one of the topics discussed during the course (or linked to them). In this work students are expected to make reference to the interpretative concepts and methods of analysis acquired during the course as well as finding (at least) one newspaper article and one scholar article about the chosen theme. Students will be working on the two papers throughout the course, and will be submitting elements of them at various times.

Attendance is mandatory. Unauthorized absences will have negative consequences for your final grade.

Technology policy

Please be advised that laptops are allowed only to take notes during the lecture. You may not use your computer to surf the Web or for any other personal purpose. Please remember to turn off your cell phone.

Grading

Grading is based on a scale of 500 total points.

- Class participation: 100 points (20%).
- Mid-term exam: 100 points (20%).
- Autobiographical research paper: 100 points (20%).
- Research paper: 200 points (40%).

Textbook

A course pack will be made available. In addition further readings will be given as class hand-outs or by email in a PDF-format

Basic reference

- ALLIK, J. and A. REALO (2004) *Individualism-Collectivism and Social Capital*, in “Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology”, 35: pp. 29-49.
- ALLUM, F. (2001) *Becoming a camorrista: criminal culture and life choices in Naples*, in “Journal of Modern Italian Studies”, 6(3): 324–347.
- ALMOND, G. and S. VERBA (1963) *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Princeton: University Press.
- ANDERSON, B. (1991) *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso.
- ANDERSON, T. (1965) *From Mafia to Cosa Nostra*, in “The American Journal of Sociology”, Vol. 71, No. 3: pp. 302-310-
- BANFIELD, E. (1958) *The Moral Basis of a Backward Society*. Glencoe: Free Press.
- BECK, U. (2006) *Cosmopolitan Vision*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- BELLAH, R.N. et al. (1985) *Habits of the Heart. Individualism and Commitment in American Life*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- BOURDIEU, P. (1979) *La distinction. Critique sociale du jugement*. Paris: Minuit.
- EUROBAROMETER (2007) *European Cultural Values*. European Commission: Bruxelles.
- EUROBAROMETER (2007) *European Social Reality*. European Commission: Bruxelles.
- FORGACS, D. and R. Lumeley (1996) *Italian Cultural Studies*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- GAMBETTA, D. (1996) *The Sicilian Mafia. The Business of Private Protection*. Harvard: University Press.
- GINSBORG, P. (2001) *Italy and its Discontents*. New York: Penguin.
- HIRSCHMAN, A. (1982) *Shifting Involvements*. Princeton: University Press.
- INGLEHART, R. (ed., 2003) *Human Values and Social Change: Findings from the Values Surveys* (International Studies in Sociology and Social Anthropology): Brill Academic Publishers.
- INGLEHART, R. and WELZEL, C. (2005) *Modernization, Cultural Change and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. New York and Cambridge: University Press.
- LA PALOMBARA, J. (1964) *Interest Groups in Italian Politics*. Princeton University Press.
- MAMMONE, A. and G. VELTRI (2008) *Italy in Chiaroscuro: the dark shadows of modern Italian society*, in “Journal of Modern Italian Studies” 13(3): 297–304.
- PUTNAM, R. (2000) *Bowling Alone*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- PUTNAM, R.D. (1999) *Civic Disengagement in Contemporary America*. Leonard Shapiro Lecture. London School of Economics.
- PUTNAM, R.D. (1993) *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: University Press.
- SCHUDSON, M. (2007) *Citizens, Consumers, and the Good Society*, in “The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science”, 611: 236-249.
- SENNET, R. (1974) *The Fall of Public Man*. New York: Knopf
- SENNET, R. (1990) *American Cities: the Grid Plan and the Protestant Ethic*, in “ISSJ”, 125: 269-285.
- Spates J. (1983) *The Sociology of Values*. In “Annual Review of Sociology” 9: 27-49.
- STORPER, M. (2003) *Society, Community and Economic Development*, Conference Paper, N.O.L.D. Doctoral School, Tromsø, Norway.
- TAYLOR, C. (1992) *The Politics of Recognition*, Princeton University Press.
- TOCQUEVILLE, A. de (1945) *Democracy in America*. New York: Knopf.
- TÖNNIES, F. (1887/1963) *Community and Society*. New York: Harper.
- TRIGILIA, C. (2001) *Social Capital and Local Development*, in “European Journal of Social Theory”, 4: 427-442.
- WALZER, M. (1974) *Civility and Civic Virtue in Contemporary America*, in “Social Research” XLI, 4: 593-611

Course Outline & Schedule (*the order could be changed according to professor's judgment*)

Week 1	Community and society: strong and weak ties <i>Exercise and/or Discussion</i>
Week 2	Social, cultural and economic capital: concepts, theories and findings <i>Introduction to the autobiographical paper</i>
Week 3	Awareness of one's social, economical and cultural background <i>Exercise and/or Discussion</i>
Week 4	Civic engagement: citizen and consumers <i>Introduction to the research paper</i>
Week 5	Citizenship and civicness: italy and the united states <i>Exercise and/or Discussion</i>
Week 6	Individualism-collectivism and social capital <i>Review</i>
Week 7	Mid-Term Exam
Week 8	Introduction to Italy: imaged and real society <i>Exercise and/or Discussion</i>
Week 9	Italian civil society: north and south <i>Exercise and/or Discussion</i>
Week 10	Particularism and Italian modernization <i>Deadline for the choice of the research paper</i>
Week 11	Social capital and organized crime: mafia, camorra 'ndrangheta and sacra corona <i>Exercise and/or Discussion</i>
Week 12	The structure of power: elites in italy and the united states <i>Exercise and/or Discussion</i>
Week 13	Social stratification, social mobility and inequalities: myths of meritocracy <i>Review</i>
Week 14	Final paper (autobiographical and research paper) and presentation