COURSE DETAIL

ITALIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
Country Italy
Host Institution University of Bologna
Program(s) University of Bologna
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Political Science Italian
UCEAP Course Number 152
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title ITALIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT
UCEAP Transcript Title ITAL POL THOUGHT
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This course is part of the Laurea Magistrale program and is intended for advanced level students. Enrolment is by consent of the instructor. This course examines how in different historical moments ranging from the 16th century to the end of the 20th century some of the most renowned Italian thinkers have figured out the people and the multiple facets this notion has assumed in modern politics. In doing so, this course also explores some important specificities of modern Italian history, society, and culture. After a short methodological and theoretical introduction that provides some basic elements and concepts to frame the overall issue, the course is structured in four parts. The first part of the course focuses on Niccolò Machiavelli’s ideas on popular republic and civil principality, and Giovanni Botero's theories on the reason of state intended as a tool for achieving a firm domination over peoples through a careful government of the population. The second part of the course discusses the way in which 19th century writers such as Giacomo Leopardi and especially Alessandro Manzoni represented the Italian people and envisioned the role of literature in the development of a modern and national consciousness in the aftermath of the French Revolution. The third part of the course discusses Antonio Gramsci's analysis of the shortcomings of the Italian process of national unification and its efforts to reckon with the emergence of modern mass societies and develop new strategies aimed at the involvement of the subaltern classes in political life. The final part of the course examines the critical positions of contemporary thinkers such as Mario Tronti and Giorgio Agamben, who have both challenged the image of the people intended as a unitary and homogeneous political subject in one case from a heterodox Marxist viewpoint, in the other from a biopolitical perspective.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
85105

Host Institution Course Title

ITALIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT (LM)

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/course-unit-catalogue/course-unit/2021/423406

Host Institution Campus
BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
LM in ITALIAN STUDIES, EUROPEAN LITERARY CULTURES, LINGUISTICS

Host Institution Department
Classical Philology and Italian Studies

Course Last Reviewed
2021-2022

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