



ITALIAN SCANDALS

ITAL 2620 - Italian Scandals

CIMS 2620 - GSWS 2620

Course Description:

When you think of the term “scandal” what comes to mind? Is there something about a society’s national identity that makes particular scandals resonate and shake the culture more than others? By exploring several Italian scandals that have helped define the cultural fabric of generations of Italians, we will learn to understand the social and political roots behind the *what* and *why* of these phenomena. Through cross-mediatic and transnational archival research we will look at the ways that different media and different nations use these phenomena to represent national belonging, social fear, and cultural expectation. Each crime has its own story, but how do they help us understand how Italy makes sense of itself through tragedy, corruption, murder, and mayhem? How *bello* is this *bel paese* after all?

Did you ever wonder what’s behind Italy’s ever-revolving government? Or why do Italians prefer to use the English word “serial killer”?

Required materials:

All materials for this course will be available online through Canvas, UPenn library, Amazon Prime, or Netflix. You will need stable internet access with streaming and downloading

capabilities. If a video is not available for streaming the instructor will facilitate a class streaming.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Attendance and Participation:

Participation is an essential part of collective knowledge creation and the communal class environment. Your participation is not only expected but is a mandatory requirement of this classroom; it is a necessary pedagogical tool as learning through conversation and writing will make up a substantial part of our class work. Your grade will be based on the following;

- o The ways that you show your knowledge of the materials studied (both as homework and in previous classes)
- o The ways in which you constructively contribute reflections and attempt analysis of course material.
- o The ways you engage with your peers in class discussions. Expectation of peer-to-peer class engagement is one of support and collective knowledge pursuit. Students should work to build off one another's ideas, pushing for critical and in-depth analytical thought.
- o The ways that you create a welcoming and supportive classroom environment, by being a leader when necessary and also by being an active listener.
- o If and when online activities or classes are held, participation also involves engagement in common digital spaces.

Regular attendance is required to pass this class. You may not miss more than the equivalent of one week of class during the semester. Please note that there are no "excused" absences. Illnesses, emergencies, travel, participation in sports events or other university-sponsored events all count as absences. Your instructor will talk to you after three absences and submit a CPN warning notice to your school office. After four absences your final grade will be lowered by one sign. For each subsequent absence your final grade will be lowered an additional sign. Excessive tardiness will also be counted toward an absence.

If you are absent you must make every effort to contact your classmates for the assignment. You are expected to hand in all materials on the day of your return to class. Please inform your instructor immediately of any problems you may have accessing documents. You must report absences through the Course Absence Reports system. For further information regarding attendance consult the College webpage on Policies Governing Class Attendance:

<https://www.college.upenn.edu/attendance>

Classroom Rules:

TO BE DETERMINED BY US.

Homework requirements:

Students are responsible for all assignments on the syllabus. This means that texts should be CAREFULLY read and studied BEFORE CLASS! There is reading/viewing for each class, many of the texts we read will be available for download through canvas and must be read, printed out and brought to class. Assignments include streaming of television and films, writing assignments, collaborative group projects, internet research and readings.

Failure to come prepared will result in a lower participation grade.

Course Action Notices (CAN):

You will receive a CAN from your instructor if you are having difficulty in any aspect of your performance in the course. You may receive one for attendance, participation, homework, compositions, tests, etc. The CAN is an opportunity for you and your instructor to communicate clearly about your performance in the course and for you to improve upon the points raised by your instructor and are not considered a punishment. This is a formal way to initiate a conversation that will lead to common understanding of the issues and a pathway toward supported learning progress.

Outline of Assignments & Assessments:

- Homework and online discussion: students will engage in online discussions about each piece of media being studied and then come to class prepared to continue the dialogue.
- Archive Research: students will work with the librarians to learn how to thoroughly research archival documents about the different topics under investigation and work toward producing annotated bibliographies of this research.
- Group Presentation: students will work in groups to provide historical, political, and social context to introduce each scandal discussed in class. They will then be asked to speak to the specific depiction of the scandal being analyzed.
- Short Writing Assignments: You will have 2 short 2-3 page writing assignments throughout the semester. One will be based on archival research of an Italian scandal and the other will be a comparative analysis of two texts that depict the same Italian scandal. These short papers are designed to help prepare you for your final assignment.
- Final Project: For this project students must write a paper that joins the two short writing assignments. Students will choose an Italian scandal (not covered in class), provide an archive based preface explaining the overarching narratives of the scandal, after which

students will either analyze one media depiction of the scandal or perform a comparative analysis of two depictions of the same scandal.

Grade Breakdown:

Homework 15%

Archive Research 10%

Group Presentation 10%

Short Writing Assignments 20%

Final Project 20%

Participation 25%

Grading Scale:

A+ 100-99	A 98-94	A- 93-90
B+ 89-88	B 87-83	B- 82-81
C+ 80-79	C 78-76	C- 75-74
D+ 73-72	D 71-70	F Below 70

UNIVERSITY & COURSE POLICIES

Code of Academic Integrity

The Department of Romance Languages fully supports and adheres to all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, etc.) The work you submit in this class is expected to be your own. If you submit work that has been copied without attribution from some published or unpublished source including the Internet, or that has been prepared by someone other than you, or that in any way misrepresents someone else's work as you own, you will face severe discipline by the university.

For more info consult:

University Code of Academic Integrity

http://www.upenn.edu/provost/PennBook/academic_integrity

The Office of Student Conduct <http://www.upenn.edu/osc>

The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers a wide range of services including individual and group counseling and therapy, crisis intervention, structured workshops, psychological testing, medication reviews, and consultation. One or more of our services could be suitable for you. In the past few years, we have provided individual counseling services to over 2,900 Penn students per year. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). 133 South 36th Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Hours: 9am - 5pm, Monday – Friday.

Emergencies: 215-349-5490 (ask for CAPS Clinician on Call). Tel:

215-898-7021. Fax: 215-573-8966. Email: caps@pobox.upenn.edu

<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/caps/>

Gender Pronoun

This class community affirms people of all gender expressions and identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let your instructor and colleagues know. Feel free to correct others on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your instructor.

Statement of Inclusivity

This class community strives to be an inclusive learning space, valuing all of our differences. We aim to be respectful of all members of this class, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientation

Course Content:

Possible Class Units and Related and Recommended Texts

The Collegno Amnesiac

Lo smemorato di collegno. Film

The Murder of Matteotti

Il delitto Matteotti. Film

Mussolini's Fake Diaries

The Soap Maker of Correggio

Ortiz, Genoveva. *The Deadly Soap-Maker of Correggio.* (New York: Sea Vision Publishing) 2022.

The Monster of Florence

Preston, Douglas. *The Monster of Florence* (New York: Grand Central Publishing) 2008.

[Atlantic Article by Douglas Preston](#)

Murders of Pietro Maso

Io ho ucciso. Documentary.

Tangentopoli

1992. Tv series.

Berlusconi and Ruby “Heartstealer”

Major news outlets in Europe, Italy, and the US

Emanuela Orlandi

The Vatican Girl Netflix Series

Amanda Knox and the Murder of Meredith Kercher**Calciopoli**

Foot, John. *Winning at All Costs* (New York: Bold Type Books) 2007.

The Baby Squillo Scandal

Baby. Netflix Series.

Other related texts:

Nerenberg, Ellen. *Murder Made in Italy* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press) 2012.