

2nd Mediterranean Migration Mosaic: Italy at the Crossroads
Spring 2016 Full course semester
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Background: The Mediterranean has witnessed the circulation of ideas, people, and goods between Northern Africa and Southern Europe across the centuries. Both during times of conflict and cooperation, colonization, religious expansion, and human migrations have shaped the lives of individuals and the history of cultures. Current migrations and conditions associated with globalization date back centuries – Italy once a sending country has now increasingly become a receiving country. The 2nd

Mediterranean Mosaic will focus on migrations to and from Italy, with an emphasis on recent (im)migrations to Italy from Africa. It will explore the multiple and interacting identities embodied by individuals, communities, regions, and the nation-state. We will examine the creation of transnational communities, ethnic and religious tensions and cooperation, philosophical orientations to diversity, and social policy at the national and EU level.

Sustainability, broadly conceived, will be another important component. We will explore *cultural sustainability* (the ways in which migrant and immigrant communities maintain their dynamic culture even as they adapt to their new transnational reality); and *economic and environmental sustainability* (how the state, employers, and workers negotiate economic and environmental costs and benefits related to productivity, labor, and health of humans and the environment).

Multi-lingual research teams will explore these dynamic interactions, with a focus on labor and family migrations. Through oral histories, ethnographic, and survey research we will begin to trace migration patterns; the contexts and conditions of both sending and receiving communities; the journeys and life experiences of (im)migrants; and community building and reception. Debates over social policy, national identity, religious diversity, and collective memory will inform our discussions.



HIST 215/SOC 230 Marcelo Borges Italy and Global Migrations

This class studies Italy's recent history of immigration in the context of Italy's place in the global migrations of the last century. It looks at Italy's history as a country of emigration and its legacy; the changes from emigration to immigration; the reception of immigrants in diverse settings; the cultural, political, and legal debates; the diversity of immigrant experiences and trajectories; the contested meaning of citizenship; and the historical construction of the idea of borders and border-crossing in Italy, Europe, and the larger Mediterranean space in historical perspective.

Migration Anxieties and the Cinema of Italy Nicoletta Marini-Maio

In the late 19th century and part of the 20th century, Italy was a nation of emigration to the Americas and Northern Europe and of internal immigration from the rural South to the industrial North. Since the 1990s, because of geopolitical and economic circumstances, Italy has increasingly become a destination country for thousands of immigrants from around the world, in particular from the former Communist bloc and the global south. This massive phenomenon transformed the demographics of Italy and mainstream media coverage of it triggered anxieties across the nation with regard to geopolitical borders, socioeconomic changes, cultural and gendered identities, racialized bodies, and ideas of otherness. The cinema has intercepted these anxieties representing both the sense of displacement of the migrant populations and the feeling of destabilization perceived in the host country. A substantive, growing corpus of about eighty narrative films and a number of documentaries has been produced in the last twenty years. Many of these films, focusing especially on the illegal disembarkation on the coasts of Italy, are framed within the Italian cinematic tradition of *neorealism* and document the difficult conditions in which the immigrants are forced to live. Others adopt a variety of film genres (i.e., thriller, crime movie, noir, and melodrama) that strongly dramatize the ethical implications of immigration and, regardless of their narratives of redemption, may cast a sinister light on the immigrant “other.” A few more movies use comedy and conciliatory endings to mitigate the conflict and stage a pacified multicultural world. Finally, a growing corpus of films, made either by Italian filmmakers or by second generation immigrants, break western cinematic conventions and focus on transnational narratives and hybrid genres. In this course we will analyze a selection from these films to investigate their forms, narratives, and strategic perspectives, seeking for tentative answers to several compelling questions, such as: how is transnational mobility represented in the national imaginary? Does this representation echo older forms of prejudice, particularly those expressed toward Italian immigrants from the South (O’Healy 2010)? To what extent is Italian society reconfiguring the boundaries of *italianità (italianness)* and resisting the fluidity of transnational mobility? Why has Mediterranean migration come to represent internal and external migration par excellence and what unresolved tensions emerge from the iconic representation of it? Are migrants depicted as passive, racialized bodies, thus following a stereotypical narrative of victimization (Bergfelder 2005)? Or, are they granted the status of subjects, who reflect critically on racism and economic oppression (Parati 2005)?

HIST215/ SOCI 240 or 340 depending on students’ previous coursework Qualitative Research Methods will introduce students to ethnographic research methods, interviewing, oral history, mapping, demographic, and archival research. Students will be actively engaged in all phases of the research process from research design to data collection, analysis, and presentation. W 1:30-4:15

HIST/ITAL/SOC 500 Independent Research/Study 500 level time TBD FILM too?

The first 4-5 weeks will take place on campus, and then the Mosaic research team will fly to Bologna to begin the three-week research trip to Italy. We then will return to campus to process and analyze our research data during the last 5-6 weeks of class. Students may be able to receive credit in other departments (Africana Studies, Anthropology,

International Studies, Middle East Studies, Women and Gender Studies) depending on their projects and in consultation with their advisor. There will be a program fee.

Tentative Dates for the integrated research trip to Italy: Feb 21st-March 11th

Bologna Feb. 21- approximately March 4th with trips to Verona/Padua (and optional trip to Florence/Prato March 2-3).

Bologna-Sicily-Lampedusa March 4th – March 10th

Fly back to Bologna – March 10-11th

The following week students will have spring break – classes resume back on campus March 21st.

There will be a program fee. An info session will be held in February 2015 with rolling admissions beginning spring 2015 so best to apply prior to summer break. Final deadline September 1, 2015.

For more information contact one of the faculty, the Community Studies Center, or the Office of Global Education and Engagement.

Also check out the blog for the 1st Mediterranean Migration Mosaic at
<http://blogs.dickinson.edu/mediterranean-migration/overview/>