

Economics 4485  
Italy Economy  
Spring 2020  
Instructors: David Boldt

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**Course Description and Objectives:** The course will provide students the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the Italian economy, business environment and culture. The course will require that students complete pre-trip readings and other assignments. The visit to Italy will provide an opportunity to learn first-hand about these topics. Upon return, students will complete a post-trip assignment. Expectations for students are that they will be able demonstrate a basic understanding of globalization issues (LG5.2) and the Italian economy (LG4). In addition, each student will make a professional presentation on an Italian economic-related topic (LG1.2).

**Required Meeting Dates:**

- 1) **Friday, January 24** (10:30am) in Miller Hall 2202. This will be a required meeting for all students participating in the Italy Study Abroad Program. If you can't make this meeting, please contact Tabitha Webster at [twebster@westga.edu](mailto:twebster@westga.edu).
- 2) **Wednesday, March 11** at either 3-5 pm or 7-9 pm. Select one of these time slots to make your oral presentation. Also, a short quiz on specific readings/videos will be given at the beginning of each of these time periods. The oral presentation assignment is discussed below.
- 3) Trip to Italy from March 13-22.

**Oral Presentation:** Each student in the class will make a powerpoint presentation on an Italian economic--related topic. The topic must be approved by the instructor of the class. The presentation should be about 10 minutes. Grading will be based on content, the presentation, and the quality of the slide presentation. Include about 10 slides in your presentation. Select and email me the name of your presentation topic by Friday, February 28.

**Readings (Italy Economy)** for Module 1. The readings for this module are available at the links below or on CourseDen. The Module 1 assignment will be posted in CourseDen and will be due by February 7.

- 1) *The CIA World Factbook-Italy* (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>)
- 2) *2019 Index of Economic Freedom-Italy*, Heritage Foundation.  
(<https://www.heritage.org/index/country/italy>)
- 3) *Economic Forecast Summary-Italy OECD* (<http://www.oecd.org/economy/italy-economic-snapshot/>)
- 4) *Economy of Milan* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy\\_of\\_Milan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Milan))
- 5) *Economy of Rome* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy\\_of\\_Rome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Rome))  
The articles below are Posted in CourseDen
- 6) *Focus Economics-Italy Economic Outlook* (11/19/19).
- 7) *Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte Wins Backing to Form a New Government* (8/28/19) Washington Post.

**Readings (Italy and the European Union)** for Module 2. The readings for this module are available at the links below or on CourseDen. The Module 2 assignment will be posted in CourseDen and will be due by February 28.

- 1) *European Union Official Website* [https://europa.eu/european-union/index\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en)
- 2) *European Union* in Wikipedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union))  
The articles below are posted in CourseDen
- 3) *The European Union? How it Works and Its History* (The Balance, 5/29,18).
- 4) *Greece's and Italy's Rocky Road to Recovery* (10/25/19) SouthEUsummit.com.
- 5) *Italy's Industrial Engine Sputters on German Economic Malaise* (11/16/19), Bloomberg.
- 6) *France and Italy Warned by Brussels and over High Debt Levels* (11/20/19), Financial Times.
- 7) *Italy Sends a Sensible Budget to Brussels* (10/16/19), The Economist.

**Resources to Review to Prepare for the Quiz.** You will need to review these materials prior to the quiz on March 11. All the articles are available in CourseDen.

- 1) Watch Rick Steves video on Rome (Rome: Eternally Engaging): <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/tv-specials/rome-eternally-engaging-tv-special>
- 2) Watch Rick Steves video on Milan (Milan and Lake Como): <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/milan-and-lake-como>
- 3) Watch Rick Steves video on Florence (Florence: Heart of the Renaissance): <https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/florence-heart-of-the-renaissance>
- 4) In Italy, Rising Anxiety Over Falling Birth Rates, PBS Newhour, (11/25/19). Link to podcast <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/in-italy-rising-anxiety-over-falling-birth-rates#audio>.
- 5) *Nutella, the Spread that Made the Hazelnut Famous* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/nutella-the-spread-that-made-hazelnuts-famous/>  
*The articles below are posted in CourseDen*
- 6) *Can Italians be Persuaded to Speak “Sotto Voce” on the Train* (12/14/19), The Guardian.
- 7) *Italians Celebrate their Coffee and Want the World to Do So, too* (12/3/19), NY Times.
- 8) *Libation Frontiers: A Deep Dive into the World Wine Industry* (2019), Toptal.com.
- 9) *Italy Says it Now Brings in More Tourism Than France. But Does it Really?* (7/19/19), The Local.com.
- 10) *Why Italians Have the Shortest Working Lives in Europe* (11/27/19) The Local.com.

### **Grading:**

- 1) 26 percent of your grade is based on completion of two online modules. The assignment for each module will be posted in CourseDen. To complete the modules, you will be required to answer questions based on the assigned readings. The Module 1 assignment (Italy Economy) is due by **Friday, February 7** while the Module 2 assignment (Italy and the European Union) will be due by **Friday, February 28**. Submit your typed responses to the questions in the assignment submission folder in CourseDen (formally known as “Dropbox”). Be sure to include your name and module number on the document you are submitting.
- 2) 14 percent of your grade is based on your presentation (see above for details). These presentations will be on **Wednesday, March 11** from 3-5 pm or from 7-9 pm.
- 3) 10 percent of your grade is based on an in-class quiz on the readings/videos listed above. This quiz will be given on March 11 (at the same time as the oral presentations). No notes will be allowed for this quiz.
- 4) 30 percent based on trip participation (see below under Attendance, Participation and Professionalism)
- 5) 20 percent on a post trip assignment. Details about this assignment will be provided at a later date. The post trip paper assignment will be due on **Monday, April 20**.

**Note: Late assignments will result in a point reduction**

**Attendance, Participation and Professionalism:** Unless a specific exception is made, students are expected to participate in all on-campus and all required components of the program in Italy. Failure to participate in the business visits will impact your grade in the course. Students will be treated as professionals and are expected to act accordingly. This includes respecting your fellow students and our hosts in Italy. On the trip, we expect that you will not put yourself in a situation which may cause problems for yourself, your classmates, our host, or for any of the instructors.

**Common Language for Course Syllabi:** Students, please carefully review the following link which contains information pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. These statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change. Topics include academic support services, the honor code, credit hours and UWG’s Email Policy. <https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpaa/common-language-course-syllabi.php>

**Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating on any assignment or exercise will result in a zero on the assignment or exercise and possible failure for the entire class. Such cheating will be reported to Student Services for appropriate disciplinary action by the University. Examples of cheating include turning in work that is not your own or having another student complete an assignment for you.