COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: COM

FHEQ **Level:**   5

Course Title: **Women in Italian Society**

Course Code: SCL 5810

Course Leader: Monica Giovannini   (Florence)

Student Engagement Hours: 120
Lectures: 22.5
Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5
Independent / Guided Learning: 75

Semester: *Fall*/Spring/*Summer*

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
        6 ECTS credits
        3 US credits

Course Description:
ITALIAN STUDY CENTRES ONLY. This course explores the social factors influencing Italian women's lives, perspectives and desires, the historical process through which they have reached their present position, and their current condition in relation to the economic, social, geographical and political environment of Italy. Representations of women in the Italian media, advertising and fashion as factors affecting their social identity are also considered.

Prerequisites: GEP 4180 Research and Writing 2

Aims and Objectives:
The course aims to offer students a comprehensive and multifaceted understanding of the evolution of gender relations in Italy, from the rise of Fascism to the present day, through a reflection upon the most relevant social and political events which marked this period: the effects of the two World Wars, the seizure of power of Fascism, the new legal system based on a more advanced and gender-sensitive social framework, and the contemporary legislative interventions in the field of family law. Contemporary representation of women in the Italian media, advertising and fashion are also explored.

Programme Outcomes:

A5 (i, ii), B5 (ii, iii), C5 (I, ii, iii), D5 (ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.
This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:
http://www.richmond.ac.uk/content/academic-schools/academic-registry/program-and-course-specifications.aspx

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the meaning of gender as a sociocultural category.

- Discuss the impact of historical events (early 19th Century - present) on gender relations.

- Critically evaluate the role played by the media in the construction of female identity.

- Critically evaluate the cultural construction of female beauty, with reference to Fascism, the Sixties and Seventies, and contemporary Italian society.

- Contextualize gender: understand it in a multicultural society; identify the Vatican's role in the construction of gender identity, with a focus on reproductive rights; relate changing female-male relations to the changes faced by Italian society.

Indicative Content:
- Historical Contexts of gender relations from early 19th C
- Italian women during the Wars
- Gender and the media
- From politics to culture: the trickle-down effect
- From TV to life: women and their bodies
- Beauty, food & power in Italy
- Women in the art world
- *Berlusconization* and contestation: the February 2011 demonstration
- What is 'Catholic culture'? What impact does it have on gender identity?
- Reproductive rights and abortion.
- Women and politics
- Women and business

Assessment:
This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee and located at: http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/

Teaching Methodology:

Lectures supplement the readings, which must be completed before each class; class meetings focus on discussion and critique of reading assignments; video and film extracts will be used to illustrate some topics. The instructor will refer to his/her own research experience to provide depth and understanding of the topic.
Two visits to local organizations will be undertaken, where possible.

Bibliography:
See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Campus, D., 2010. Political Discussion, Views of Political Expertise and Women's Representation in Italy. *European Journal of Women's Studies*, 17(3), pp.249-269.

Lauzen M., Dozier, D. and Horan, N, 2008. Constructing Gender Stereotypes through Social Roles in Prime-Time Television. *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*, 52(2), pp.200-214.

Wilson, Perry, 2009. Women in Twentieth-Century Italy. Palgrave Macmillan.

Journals
Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media

Social Forces

European Journal of Women's studies

Web Sites
 See syllabus for complete list

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

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Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry