This course provides a comprehensive survey of 20th-Century Italian history, culture, and society. We will focus on selected Italianisms, namely literary, social, and political movements, but also fundamental historical and cultural phenomena in contemporary Italy.

Through a multidisciplinary approach this course will address a wide range of topics, such as Fascism and the Resistance, the years of post-WWII reconstruction and consumerism, Neo-realism, the rise of civil and political violence in the 1960s and 1970s, and the challenges faced by today’s Italy (migration, mafia and camorra, the Berlusconi phenomenon).

Students will be exposed to a large selection of texts, including fiction, historical studies, critical works, manifestos and memoirs by authors such as Marinetti, Levi, Calvino, and Pasolini, among others. Films will include both Italian classics (Bicycle Thieves, La dolce vita, The Conformist) and some examples of contemporary Italian cinema.

T/Th 12:30-1:50pm

The course will be taught in English.

Please email annovi@usc.edu for any questions.