COPA GU (W) 4022
Diasporas in Italian and Transnational History

Instructor: Konstantina Zanou
Fall 2018- Seminar
Tuesday, 6:10-8 pm, Hamilton 407

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Some years ago the word Diaspora referred to Jews and was spelled with a capital D. Today, almost every ethnic group, country, or separatist movement has its diaspora. Usually, these diasporas are presented as pieces of national life scattered here and there, in places far away from the national core. In this seminar, however, we will treat diasporas not as an emblem of national unity but as an expression of diversity, of a multiplicity of loyalties and belongings. By combining history, literature, film, and cultural studies, and by approaching the topic through the lens of transnationalism, we will study topics such as Mobility and Nationalism, Diasporas in Intellectual History, The Mediterranean in Motion, Italian Migration, Mobile Italy and its Colonies, Displacements in the Eastern Mediterranean, Lost Cosmopolitanisms in the Middle East, Emigration from Eastern Europe, and Mediterranean Refugees and Memory. The aim is to turn our gaze away from the territorially defined world, towards a view in which countries are ship-like territories.
READINGS:
• Most readings will be available on Courseworks or in Butler online. However, the few readings that will not be there, you need to find them either in Butler library, or through BorrowDirect, or to purchase them.
• Make sure to come to class with a hard or electronic copy of all the assigned readings.
• Useful links to research centers and museums:
  - Centro Altreitalie: http://altreitalieita.imginternet.it/
  - Calandra Italian-American Institute: http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/calandra/
  - Italian Migration Museum Online: http://www.museoemigrazioneitaliana.org/the-departure
  - Lower East Side Tenement Museum: http://www.tenement.org/
  - Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility: https://zolberginstitute.org/

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Attendance. You are expected to attend every class meeting and to arrive on time. In the event that you must miss a class due to religious observance, illness, or a family emergency, please notify me in advance (whenever possible). Unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade.

* Attendance includes your presence in the events of ‘The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium’. Look at the program here.
* Optional: Screening of Lamerica by Gianni Amelio (1994, 2 hours) combined with dinner at my house OR a guided visit to the Tenement Museum.

Class Participation. This is a discussion-driven course. You are required to come to each session prepared to talk about and analyze the weekly readings.

Class Conduct. I expect that you will treat your peers and their ideas with consideration and respect. That means, among other things, that your cell phones must be turned off or silenced (no sounds or vibration) and put away for the duration of the seminar. You can use a laptop or tablet only for note-taking purposes.

Method of Evaluation. Aside from your attendance and participation, there are three other factors of assessment:
1. Class presentations: Every week one or two students will help lead discussion by giving a short, 20-minute presentation of one or more of the assigned readings. These presentations will be evaluated on their performance, organization and concision, as well as on how well they draw out issues and themes for class discussion.
2. **Weekly written responses:** Every week all students (except those presenting in class) will be writing 1-2 page double-spaced papers, intended as informal (though always well-written!) responses to the weekly readings. These responses should reflect your comments, questions and/or thoughts about all readings of the week (you can focus on one or more subjects, but this/these should be seen through all readings). These papers are due by **10 am on Tuesday** and should be sent by email attachment to the whole class (in .doc, .docx or .pages format). You will receive a grade and feedback for your responses each week, so you can follow your progress throughout the term.

3. **Final paper:** One final paper (14-16 double-spaced pages for undergraduates; 18-20 double-spaced pages for graduate students—bibliography included). This will be an assessment of a specific subject or a question among (or inspired by) those we will be treating in class. Students are expected to consult with me on the topic and scope of their essays and discuss departing points and further readings. They should present a draft of their final paper in the last class and receive comments and feedback by their instructor and classmates. The final paper is due by **December 20.** They should be sent to me by email attachment in .doc, .docx or .pages format.

**Grading.**

Class participation (including attendance and active presence in class discussions): 30%

Class presentation & weekly written responses: 30%

Final paper (including the presentation of its draft in class): 40%

* Be punctual in turning in your weekly responses and final paper. I do not accept late papers, except for reasons of illness or personal or family crisis.

**DISABILITIES:**

If you are a student with a disability and have an DS-certified ‘Accommodation Letter’ please come to my office hours to confirm your accommodation needs. If you believe that you might have a disability that requires accommodation, you should contact Disability Services at **212-854-2388** and **disability@columbia.edu**.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires of faculty and students alike the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity. Scholarship, by its very nature, is an iterative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars’ work, the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgement of those ideas in any work that
inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited.

In practical terms, this means that, as students, you must be responsible for the full citations of others' ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent.

Any breach of this intellectual responsibility is a breach of faith with the rest of our academic community. It undermines our shared intellectual culture, and it cannot be tolerated. Students failing to meet these responsibilities should anticipate being asked to leave Columbia.

For more information on academic integrity at Columbia, students may refer to the Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity: [http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/academicintegrity](http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/academicintegrity)

**WEEKLY SYLLABUS**

**Week 1: 4 Sept —What is Diaspora?**

**Week 2: 11 Sept—What is Transnational History?**

**Week 3: 18 Sept—Mobility and Nationalism: The Risorgimento**

**Week 4: 25 Sept—Diasporas in Intellectual History**


**Week 5: 2 Oct—The Mediterranean in Motion**


**Week 6: 9 Oct—Italian and Mediterranean Migrants in the Americas**

[Film screening: Excerpts from *America, America* by Elia Kazan, 1963, 3 hours]

* William J. Connell and Stanislao G. Pugliese (eds), *The Routledge history of Italian Americans*, New York 2018: Introduction & Chapters 2, 3, 6, 8, 9. (online in Butler)


**Week 7: 16 Oct—People on the move: Italian migrants I**


**Week 8: 23 Oct—People on the move: Italian migrants II**

[Screening: video interviews of Italian migrants, Italian Migration Museum Online, 45’]


**Week 9: 30 Oct—Displacements in the Eastern Mediterranean**

[Film screening: *Twice a Stranger* by Andreas Apostolidis and Roger Zetter, 2014, 50’]


Week 10: 13 Nov—Mobile Italy and its Colonies

[Gunst Lecturer: Teresa Fiore, Associate Professor and Inserra Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies—Montclair State University]


Week 11: 20 Nov—Lost Cosmopolitanisms in the Middle East?


Week 12: 27 Nov—Emigrating from Eastern Europe


Week 13: 4 Dec—Mediterranean Refugees, Memory and History

[Film screening: *Profughi a Cinecittà* (Refugees in Cinecittà) by Marco Bertozzi, 2012, 52’]


Final Paper due: December 20