



**Academic Year 2016-2017
Syllabus
Anthropology of Globalization
6 CFU
Prof. Piero Vereni**

Course Description

This course is a study of present Rome, its cultural complexity and diversity. It offers the students local perspectives on globalization as it offers global perspectives on the city of Rome. The intertwined processes of globalization and localization will be addressed via an in-depth study of Rome and the social, cultural, political, demographic and economic transformations the city is currently going through. From a more general perspective, the course will introduce the concept of “global cities” and discuss global city theory. The course will introduce Rome via a diversity of topical prisms: immigration, neighborhood formations, ethnicity, tourism, popular culture, youth culture, religious identities, food and identity, etc. The course has an explicit aim to force students to recognize and valorize local particularities in a globalizing world, but also to understand these particularities less as relics of the past for the tourist to gaze at, and more like dynamic and ongoing adaptations to the centrifugal forces of globalization. Within this general frame, the course aims at training students to watch at Rome not only as an immobile city with a cherished past, but also a vivid location going towards its future.

In this respect a secondary aim of the course is to allow students to critically assess the economic theory of the global city and to integrate it with a more complex perspective based not only on economics, but also on political science, sociology and cultural anthropology, since cultural aspects of globalization are central to a city like Rome and more relevant to its current development than strictly economic factors.

The student will be asked to think about his or her own cultural backgrounds, to develop an analytic stance toward identity and power in the world today, to compare Rome to other urban settings in the World, and to learnedly discuss the global and local forces that shape his/her own life.

Pre-requisites for the course: none.

Teaching Method

Lecture in class (with very little space for debate and discussion) on the assigned readings. At least four times the class shall be taken “on the field”, visiting some parts of Rome and talking to the local dwellers. So the course combines two teaching methodologies: lesson and fieldwork. Discussion in class will be used from time to time to check students’ reading work.

Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	Introduction to the course. What is culture?
Topic 2	Introduction to the course. What is globalization of culture?
Topic 3	Urban development
Topic 4	Walking tour of Pietralata and Nomentano
Topic 5	Immigration and refugees (visit to refugee centre)
Topic 6	Roman Muslims (visit to grand Mosque of Rome)
Topic 7	Roman Catholicism
Topic 8	Housing issue and squats (visit to squat)

Note: Changes in course plan may occur and will be announced in class. A routinely updated online version of the plan shall be available to students as soon as they confirm their participation. See my blog at pieroovereni.blogspot.com for up-to-date course plan.

Textbook and Materials

Course textbook: I. Clough-Marinaro and B. Thomassen (eds) *The changing faces of the Eternal City*, Indiana University Press 2014. The book is a collection of essays on the impact of globalization on Rome and addresses all the main issues discussed in class and during the walking tours. Further material for discussion and reading will be handed to the students in class.

The “pack” with pdf copies shall be available online and shall include (among others):

Piero Vereni: *Culture as learned, shared and symbolic knowledge* (mimeo)

Clifford Geertz: *Towards an interpretive theory of culture*

Arjun Appadurai: *Disjuncture and difference in the global cultural economy*

Christopher Hibbert: *The Refuge of All the Nations*

Assessment

Attendance: Students are required to notify the professor on time (that is in advance) if they cannot attend a class/tour. Missing a tour is like missing a lesson, and missing any class/tour without a valid WRITTEN justification (EITHER BY A PHYSICIAN OR THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR) will adversely affect the final grade in an altogether automatic way. Lectures must be carefully attended by students since their topics are an integral part of the programme and in the finals some questions will explicitly use pieces of information from the lectures and visits NOT included in the readings.

Exam: Written finals in class. The students shall have two hours in class to answer five of six open questions on the whole programme (book, readings, note from class and tours).

Evaluation breakdown:

class participation: 50%

final written exam: 50%

As stated in the syllabus, active participation in class is mandatory. Each and every absence from class without a serious and evidenced justification will seriously affect the final grade.

Not attending students will also study another assigned reading.

Office hours

Normally on Tuesdays 9:30am-1:00pm but check in advance my online up-to-date calendar at my blog: pierovereni.blogspot.it (if you check it on your mobile device, allow the “show desktop version” option to load, since the calendar shows on the right column, removed from the display for mobiles).

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NOTE: Since the course is provided for a limited number of students, **Erasmus students** who would like to attend this course and take this exam need to contact the Secretariat of Global Governance by e-mail global.governance@uniroma2.it for registration.