

# ITALIAN 304-0

## The Voices of Liberty *Politics and Mass Culture*

**LAZZARICH**

**TTh 2-3:20 pm**

Freedom is one of the most defining ideas in the formation of modern Western political thought. What ideas of liberty have been theorized throughout Italian intellectual history? Did the emergence of mass politics and mass media reshape the way freedom was conceived? How have ideas of liberty been communicated in mass culture, by whom, and for what purposes?

To address these questions, this course examines how the idea of liberty has been theorized, articulated, appropriated, and contested by political thinkers and actors throughout Italian history, and how it has been mediated through newspapers, radio, music, cinema, television, and social media. Starting from the patriotic journalism of the 19th-century Risorgimento and Fascist propaganda, and moving through political songs, postwar cinema, feminist media interventions, and contemporary online activism, the course reconstructs the main historical phases of the Italian intellectual and cultural debate on freedom. Students will work with written, audio, and visual primary sources and will learn to interpret political ideas as part of a broader media and cultural landscape.





**SQ26**

**ITALIAN 349-0**

**Italy at War:  
Politics, Music, and  
Mobilization of the Masses**  
*Topics in Italian Culture and  
Literature*

**LAZZARICH**  
**TTh 3:30-4:50 pm**

War has played a central role in Italian culture and intellectual history across different historical periods. Italian unification, World War I, Fascism, colonial expansion, World War II, and the Cold War were all accompanied by specific war cultures with distinct political and cultural values. What role did music play in disseminating these values? How did it contribute to fostering mass participation in the war effort? What is the ideological link between song lyrics and political thought?

This course aims to analyze war discourses produced in Italy between the 19th and 20th centuries and the political role of music in engaging and mobilizing the masses. To answer these questions, we will study the political thought of these eras to provide a theoretical framework necessary for interpreting war songs within their specific context. Through this lens, we will analyze song lyrics not just as artistic expressions, but as vehicles of precise political ideas. Propaganda images will also be considered to complement the analysis of the political message. By listening to musical pieces and analyzing their lyrics as primary sources, students will learn about the cultural construction of war and its impact on - and re-signification by - the masses.