



#Being Mixed-Race in Italy is an experience that can be traced back to the Roman Empire and that for centuries was a condition present but not marked or highlighted in school texts or in media productions. This unit, having finished the historical excursus, analyzes the temporal construction from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day, with the stories of the mixed-race of the colonies who lived both in Italy and in the former colonies, the children of the war born of African-American soldiers, the children of African-American soldiers stationed on Italian bases up to the present, the children of Africans and Italians born and raised in Italy but also abroad. We move from a narrative constructed by Italian society of the description of who was a mulatto (a word to be deleted) to an inter-generational and cosmopolitan narrative coming from mixed-race Italian storytellers. A very useful module to be compared also with similar considerations and stories from the United States and the themes of dual-triple identity that are very much felt by American students.

#Black Italian Cinema and Series Storytelling

Does a black Italian cinema exist and how is it emerging?

This unit using the documentary "Blaxploitalian 100 Years of Blackness in Italian Cinema" describes how Black Italians and non-Blacks have been represented by the Italian film and television industry, assuming that those who wrote, directed, and produced the films were not Black Italians. The second part of the unit focuses on the timeline of emerging Black Italians creators whether they are in film, television series, or cross-media projects (from music videos to new media productions). A declination of the unit is dedicated to the narrative and counter-narrative of Black Italian women.



#Black Lives Matter in Italy and Black Italian Activists

This unit aims to tell the timeline of anti-racist movements starting from two different declinations: those organized by white Italians and the more recent ones in which the central organizing element is the Afrodescendant. In addition to the movements, the module presents individual figures linked to the movements against slave labor (from Jerry Masslo to Aboubakar Soumahoro), against the legacy of colonialism in the representations of symbols that can be monuments and celebrations, for the reform of the law of citizenship.

In a galaxy where it is difficult to identify who is the activist the unit wants to lead to an objective path. This unit is useful to develop classroom comparisons with the North American universe or other countries experiences on the same themes that connects the present to the legacy of the past.

#The Black Italian Women Experience

This unit analyzes the representation of Black women in different historical periods in Italy: from the pre-colonial one traceable in black paintings and Black Madonnas, to the Black Venus paradigm during the colonial period that continues in the Italian cinema and media until the late 1980s. The second part of the module focuses on the self-representation that is emerging through the new media and Italian black women professionals in a process of emancipation and storytelling of the issues of being black women in Italy.

In addition to the cluster dedicated to the representation, the module is completed with a socio-demographic analysis of the various stages of arrival in Italy and the countries of origin of Black Italian women starting from the presence of Afro-descendants of the Renaissance, African-American women during the XIX and XX century, Italian-Somali and Italian-Ethiopian women from the early XX century onwards, and Afro-Latinas and African women from the 80s onwards.



#Black Italian Digital Creators

The digital sphere is not only a medium to exchange content but for many Italians, especially young people becomes their real window to the world, a window where the freedom of access has allowed an entire generation Z and millennials to be able to research and express their individual and consequently community identities. It is precisely through the new digital media that in the last five years being black in Italy has gone from being an associative experience linked to one's community of belonging (those of the parents) to becoming a more collective experience that is increasingly being defined as a community in the making. Many talents emerged from social media then entered the mainstream. This module traces the birth of blogs, of the social media pages most relevant to identity construction but also to direct criticism of Italian society. This is one of the modules that attracts students because they feel they share so much with their Black Italian counterparts.

#Black Italians in the Music Industry

In many countries of the world in some musical genres an Afro-descendant would have no problem to become a star but this is not what happened and still happens in Italy in the music industry where the greatest black talents have rarely been discovered and promoted by the music majors but through an individual path that started from social media.

Some of them are now stars in Italy. Even those who didn't become stars have influenced many music productions by having their products released on social media and then being "imitated" by others. Music is one of the most intercultural mediums because unlike literature or blogging it often tries to mix the languages known by many artists creating amazing mixes. A unit definitely to be used for the high rate of engagement it has with students who are approaching the Italian language. As in the film module, it traces a timeline linked to Black artists of the past (Lola Falana, Rocky Roberts, etc.) but not born in Italy, to pioneers of the 70s as the Neapolitan James Senese until the emergence of Black Italians artists (The Soul System, Laioung, Lorenzo Tronconi, Loretta Grace, JLord, Ghali, Mahmood, eccetera)





#From Migrant Literature to Millennial Publishing

This module connects what has been called migrant literature with the renewal in the literary world that is underway and the dozens of new authors, especially in the last two years, some of them full-time writers who are known by the new generation and whose books are excellent tools for narrating different declinations of experience depending on the author's individual background.

Certainly, the academic world is very familiar with this unit, but it may have escaped this cultural production of the last four years. Some titles, already from 2016, are not even marginal as sales and numbers, and also are the basis for future productions such as film productions or television series based on the books. Antonio Dikele Distefano is an example of this with the international Netflix series "Zero" based on one of his novels.



#The Queer Black Italian Experience

The most recent unit on an experience little known even in Italy and under construction thanks to My Queer Blackness, My Black Queerness, a project of primary importance founded by the journalist and creative Jordan Anderson who has lived for years in Milan and supported by Converse.

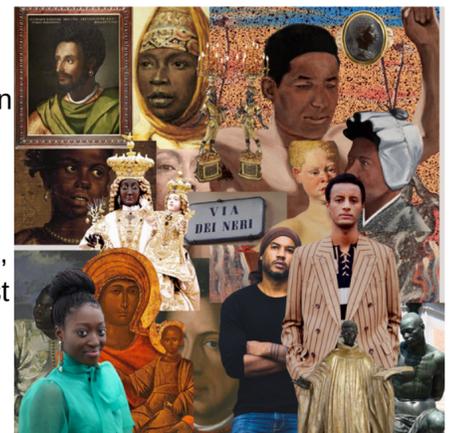


#The Black Experience of Colonialism

A unit based on experiences of Afro-Italians during the colonialism. A link that is present in the real lives of people descended from this historical past and of African communities that moved to Italy in different historical phases. This unit also seeks to recover archival histories tied to mixed-race Italians born in the former colonies, those who grew up in Italy during Fascism, such as the actress Isabella Marincola or the boxer Leone Jacovacci, or those who were adopted and brought to Italy at the beginning of the 20th century and the many propagations that this experience had in the following decades in Italy.

#Art History and Contemporary Visual Artists

This unit begins with a list of items and artistic historical productions in which Blacks were depicted and the context in which their presence was not racialized but testified to the Black presence in Italian History. The world of contemporary art even more than other disciplines is difficult to access for many Afro-Italian young talents who can't afford art schools and physical spaces where to work and for this reason for years did not have Black Italian artists. Things are changing in the last five years with the presence of a dozen talented visual artists. This unit tells the work, the practice and artistic philosophy of some of them, and underlies the leads to bring back to memory part of the past denial of the Black body in Italy.



#Black Designers in Fashion Industry

As in all fields of Italian society, even fashion, one of the most recognized abroad, is undergoing a transformation of Black presence, included the scenes of design, marketing and branding. Through the experience "BLM in Italian Fashion Industry" founded by Stella Jean, a well-known Italian-Haitian designer who created a collective of Black Italian Designers to have more representation in an industry that is still too white. This unit summarizes this experience that is also linked to the productivity of the Italian system and to a creativity that is multi-disciplinary (photographers, videomakers, casting directors, editors) with the stories of five Afro-Italian designers and two Afro-Americans including Virgil Abloh, the Afro-American artistic director of Louis Vuitton who founded in Milan his brand Off-White.

#The African-Americans Experience in Italy

The presence of African-Americans in Italy is usually declined and linked to World War II when African-American soldiers of the 92nd Infantry Buffalo Soldiers Division arrived in Italy. In reality, it already began in 1850 and continues to the present day, where African-American expats have decided to lay the foundations of their lives in Italy, including young African-Americans. Among the many names: the sculptor Edmonia Lewis and the activist and doctor Sarah Redmond Parker, also African-American.

The unit traces many African-American personalities who have contributed to Italian society, some of them unknown. Without the African-American soldiers presence there would not have been such a rapid development of Italian jazz as well as without the basketball coach Elliott Van Zandt who coached and set up the work of the Italian basketball federation there would not have been an acceleration of the game of basketball in Italy. Not to mention the contribution of performers and actors who have worked in Italian cinema. The module intersects several topics including Mixed-Race Italians who are the children of African-Americans.

