

# GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: HIST 338/INST 391 Fascist Italy  
Credits: 3 Credits  
Instructor: Dr. Peter Fischer, PhD



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Fall Semester 2009 – Meeting Times Monday and Wednesday 2.00 – 3.30 pm

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday and Wednesday 1.30-2.00 pm or by appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course has been designed to review and examine Italian history from 1918 to 1945. The main areas of focus will be: an examination of social and economic conditions in post-World War Italy, the rise of fascism after the First World War, the role of Benito Mussolini, the establishment and consolidation of the fascist state after 1925 and the nature of Fascist government in Italy, fascist foreign policy and Italian imperialism under Mussolini, the crucial alliance between fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, Italy's involvement and its responsibilities in the Second World War as well as the emergence of an anti-fascist Resistance Movement.

## COURSE METHOD

The course will be taught through a combination of formal lectures (incl. power point presentations) and workshops in which students are given a variety of primary and secondary source material and/or some extracts from documentary films to discuss. The lectures will provide a broad outline of the respective period while the workshops will enable students to focus on key topics or themes. Students will engage in full class discussion and small group work. They will engage with a variety of primary and secondary source material, and be expected to watch extracts from documentary films.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course seeks to provide students with basic knowledge about Italy's modern political history, so that they may evaluate the complexity of Italian politics with some degree of sophistication. On successful completion of this course students will be able to gain a command not only of the "facts" of modern Italian political history--the dates of key events, the importance of major personalities, and such--but also come to understand the dynamics involved: the basic trends of continuity and change, cause and effect, the interplay of regional, national and international influences, and the significance of global events within Italy.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Develop students' understanding of the topic area  
Develop an understanding of the theoretical and methodological issues  
Encourage active participation in class discussions and in critical evaluation of primary and secondary source material  
Encourage students' participation in different forms of assessment

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the module students will:

- have deepened their understanding of the topic area
- have acquired new perspectives on approaching history
- be able to describe and discuss their newly acquired knowledge and understanding
- have developed their research, writing, and discussion skills, and extended their capacity for critical analysis and reflection
- have completed, and been assessed on, their course work
- have developed the confidence to explore ideas individually and in groups

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Course requirements include regular class attendance, class participation, required readings and pop quizzes, student presentation, a paper project, a mid-term exam and a final exam.

### **Paper Project**

Each student is expected to write a paper of about 15 pages on one of the topics relating to modern Italian political history. I will not accept any paper without an approved paper outline attached! Late papers will receive a drop in grade. The topics are determined by the available reading, and guidance will be given throughout. You may choose to pursue further a topic that we are exploring in class, or examine another area of academic interest which is related to the subject of this course. Topics must be selected in agreement with me.

### **Student Presentation**

This class is designed so that participation plays an integral role in the learning process. The basic format for the course will consist of an introduction to the narrative and to key issues of a specific chapter of modern political history in Italy followed by a "workshop session" the same week. The introductory session will mainly consist of lectures. The workshop sessions will consist of the presentation of documentary material (primary and secondary text sources, documentary film material) for which selected student groups will take over responsibility, followed by a class discussion on central themes raised in those documents. There will also be discussion on key topics or themes introduced in the lecture of the same week. The student groups are responsible for preparing questions and topics in order to stimulate lively class discussions.

## **ASSESSMENT**

10% Class Attendance, Class Participation and Pop-Quizzes

10% Class Presentation

30% Paper Project

20% Mid-Term Exam

30% Final Exam

## **GRADING**

Grading will be done on a percentage basis: (A 92.5-100) (A- 90.0-92.4) (B+ 87.5-89.9) (B 82.5-87.4) (B- 80.0-82.4) (C+ 77.5-79.9) (C 72.5-77.4) (C- 70.0-72.4) (D+ 67.5-69.9) (D 60.0-67.4) (F 0-59.9)

## **ABSENCE POLICY ON LECTURES AND EXAMS**

In class lectures are worth two credits. Following university policy, students are allowed four absences. At the fifth absence the grade goes down of a half letter point: from A to A-, A- to B+, B+ to B and so on. allows a maximum of six absences for a three credit course. There will be **no written make up tests** without a medical certificate.

## **REQUIRED READING**

Material contained in course reader. A bounded copy covering the Required Readings will be made available. Additional Required Readings will be made available by the instructor.

## **COURSE OUTLINE & SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1**

Sept 21 (Mon): What will this course be about? Introduction to course material.

Sept 23 (Wed): Introduction to Italian History before the Fascist Period – A Short overview

### **Week 2**

Sept 28 (Mon): EXCURSION – Political Walking Tour Through Florence

Sept 30 (Wed): WORKSHOP – Research Projects and Student Assignments

### **Week 3**

Oct 5 (Mon): LECTURE 1 – Liberal State and World War I

Oct 7 (Wed): WORKSHOP 1 – Discussion of Primary Documents and Archival Film Material

Week 4

Oct 12 (Mon): LECTURE 2 – Post WW1 Crisis and Rise of Fascism to 1922

Oct 14 (Wed): WORKSHOP 2 – Discussion of Primary Documents and Archival Film Material

Week 5

Oct 19 (Mon): LECTURE 3 - Steps to Dictatorship and Creation of a Fascist State to 1928

Oct 21 (Wed): WORKSHOP 3 – Discussion of Primary Documents and Archival Film Material

Week 6

Oct 26 (Mon): MID-TERM EXAM

Week 7

Nov 2 (Mon): LECTURE 4 – Fascism in power. A totalitarian state?

Nov 4 (Wed): WORKSHOP 4 – Discussion of Primary Documents and Archival Film Material

Week 8

Nov 9 (Mon): LECTURE 5 - Engineering of Consent. Economy and Society under Fascism

Nov 11 (Wed): WORKSHOP 5 – Discussion of Primary Documents and Archival Film Material

Week 9

Nov 16 (Mon): LECTURE 6 - Origins of Nazism in Germany to 1933

Nov 18 (Wed): WORKSHOP 6 – Discussion of Primary Documents and Archival Film Material

Week 10

Nov 23 (Mon): LECTURE 7 - Fascist Foreign Policy to 1939

Nov 25 (Wed): WORKSHOP 7 – Discussion of Primary Documents and Archival Film Material

Week 11

Nov 30 (Mon): LECTURE 8 - Second World War and Collapse of Fascism

Dec 2 (Wed): WORKSHOP 8 – Discussion of Primary Documents and Archival Film Material

Week 12

Dec 7 (Mon): LECTURE 9 - Interpreting Italian Fascism

Dec 9 (Wed): WORKSHOP 9 – Discussion of Primary Documents and Archival Film Material

Week 13

Dec 14 (Mon): FINAL EXAM

\*Note: We will stick to this schedule as closely as possible, but please be advised that this calendar is subject to some minor modification. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to get in touch with a class member or me to find out the following week's material and activities.