

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 2011 – 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 also watch and discuss extracts from historical film material. Films will include fascist propaganda and documentaries (from the Istituto Luce's archives), as well as films by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, Bernardo Bertolucci and Ettore Scola,

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

Students should deepen their knowledge of Italian political history: in particular they should develop an understanding of the history of Italian fascism: its origins, seizure of power, development and institutionalization, its most extreme elements and its defeat.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements include regular class attendance, class participation, required readings and pop quizzes, student presentations, 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 Presentations

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. The workshop sessions will consist of the presentation of documentary material (primary and secondary text sources, historical film material) for which selected student groups will take over responsibility, followed by a class discussion on central themes raised in those documents and films. 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.

Mid-Term Exam

An exam covering all topics presented until the mid-term exam. It will consist of a series of multiple choice and short answer questions and one short essay (about one page) chosen among two questions. The exam will take approximately 90 minutes to complete and is closed book/closed note and it will constitute 20% of the final grade.

Final Exam

The final exam is the final step in the sequential learning process the course involves. In this exam you will bring together the various concepts/topics we have studied. The exam will take approximately 90 minutes to complete. It will constitute 30% of the final grade. This is the only time the exam will be given. Students who plan to depart prior to the exam should not take this course.

Review Sessions

Thorough review sessions are held in indicated sessions prior to both the mid-term and final exams. A written study guide will be made available for students.

REQUIRED READINGS

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

Sept 21 (Wed): Introduction to Italian History before the Fascist Period – A Short overview

Required Readings:

Turner, 40-74; Davis (2004), 283-288; Lyttelton (2002), 272-277; Duggan (2000), 129-146

Week 2

Sept 26 (Mon): EXCURSION – Political Walking Tour Through Florence

Sept 28 (Wed): WORKSHOP – Research Projects and Student Assignments

Week 3

Oct 3 (Mon): Liberal Italy and the Origins of Fascism

Required Readings:

Blinkhorn (2001), 3-10; Knight (2003), 1-5; Duggan (2000), 171-195

Oct 5 (Wed): WORKSHOP: Major European Political Ideologies

Week 4

Oct 10 (Mon): Post WW1 Crisis and Rise of Fascism to 1922

Required Readings:

Blinkhorn (2001), 11-23; Knight (2003), 14-17; Duggan (2000), 195-204; Lyttelton (2001), 264-272

Oct 12 (Wed): WORKSHOP – Discussion of Primary Documents

Primary Sources:

Doc 1/1: Manifesto of the Communist Party (1848)

Doc 1/2: Platform of the Fasci di Combattimento (1919)

Doc 1/3: The Fascist Manifesto (1919)

Doc 1/4: Postulates of the Fascist Program (1920)

Doc 1/5: Program of the National Fascist Party (1921)

NOTE: PAPER OUTLINES MUST BE GIVEN IN BY OCTOBER 12 (Wed)

Week 5

Oct 17 (Mon): Steps to Dictatorship and Creation of the Fascist State to 1928

Required Readings:

Blinkhorn (2001), 23-29; Duggan (2000), 205-214; Knight (2003), 31-35

Oct 19 (Wed): WORKSHOP – Discussion of Archival Film Material

Documentary Film Material:

Istituto Luce, Storia D'Italia.. Dall'Unità al 2000

Week 6

Oct 24 (Mon): Fascism in power. A totalitarian state?

Required Readings:

Blinkhorn (2001), 37-39; Gentile (2002), 139-174; Knight (2003), 45-48

Oct 26 (Wed): WORKSHOP – Discussion of Primary Documents + REVIEW

Primary Sources:

Doc 2/1: Antonio Gramsci, Neither Fascism nor Liberalism: Sovietism! (1924)

Doc 2/2: *Fascism as Intellectual Revolution* by Giuseppe Bottai (1924)

Doc 2/3: Mussolini's Speech to the Chamber (1925)

Doc 2/4: *The Political Doctrine of Fascism* by Alfredo Rocco (1925)

Doc 2/5: Foundations and Doctrine of Fascism (1932)

Week 7

Oct 31 - Nov 3: MID-TERM EXAM

Week 8

Nov 7 (Mon): Origins of Nazism in Germany to 1933

Required Readings:

Fritsche (2008), 48-72

Nov 9 (Wed): WORKSHOP – ‘A Special Day’ (E. Scola): Film Presentation and Class Discussion

Documentary Film Material:

Istituto Luce, *Storia D'Italia.. Dall'Unità al 2000*

Week 9

Nov 14 (Mon): Engineering of Consent. Economy, Society and Art under Fascism

Required Readings:

Clark (2008), 315-334; Duggan (2000), 214-232; Knight (2003), 64-68

Nov 16 (Wed): WORKSHOP – Life in Florence under Fascist Rule (encounter with contemporary witnesses at the headquarter of ARCI in Florence)

NOTE: PAPERS MUST BE HANDED IN BY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 (WED) LATEST!

Week 10

Nov 21 (Mon): LECTURE - Fascist Foreign Policy to 1939

Required Readings:

Blinkhorn (2002), 40-46; Knight (2003), 81-85; Knox (2002), 105-138

Nov 23 (Wed): WORKSHOP – Discussion of Primary Documents

Primary Sources:

Doc 3/1: *The Manifesto of Race* (1938)

Doc 3/2: Futurist Manifesto by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti (1909)

Doc 3/3: Art and Fascism by Margherita Sarfatti (1928)

Doc 3/4: Mussolini Justifies War Against Ethiopia (1935)

Doc 3/5: "Anti-Comintern" Pact (1937)

Doc 3/6: Pact of Steel (1939)

Week 11

Nov 28 (Mon): Second World War and Collapse of Fascism

Required Readings:

Blinkhorn (2002), 47-52; Corner, 282-290; Duggan (2000), 232-239; Knight (2003), 97-100

Nov 30 (Wed): WORKSHOP – Discussion of Primary Documents

Primary Sources:

Doc 4/1: Mussolini: "To Arms" (1940)

Doc 4/2: Mussolini Speech, February 23, 1941

Doc 4/3: Radio Address Roosevelt Dec 9, 1941

Doc 4/4: Armistice with Italy; September 3, 1943

Doc 4/5: The Manifesto of Verona (1943)

Week 12

Dec 5 (Mon): WORKSHOP - Interpreting Italian Fascism – Class Discussion

Required Readings:

U. Eco (1995), M. Blinkhorn (2002), 54-61

Dec 7 (Wed): WORKSHOP: ‘1900’ (B. Bertolucci) and ‘The Night of San Lorenzo’ (P.&V. Taviani): Film Presentation and Class Discussion + REVIEW

Week 13

Dec 12-16: FINAL EXAMS

*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.