

From Mussolini to Berlusconi: Italian Politics and Culture in the Twentieth Century

HIST 385

Dr. Rhiannon Evangelista

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Office: 120 Bowden Hall

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00pm-4:00pm

Classroom: 118 Bowden Hall

Class Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1-1:50pm

Class Webpage: www.rhiannonevangelista.com/mb

Spring 2014

Course Overview

This course examines the political and cultural life of Italy from 1900 until the present day focusing particularly on those points at which politics and culture intersect. Therefore the figures of both Benito Mussolini and Silvio Berlusconi will figure prominently in our discussion. The Fascist dictator harnessed the power of new media like radio and cinema for his propaganda machine while implementing policies that promoted the adherence of intellectuals, artists, and architects to the regime. The businessman Berlusconi used his media empire and the popularity of his soccer club to launch and sustain his political career. In addition, this course will examine the Futurist artistic movement, the poet/World War I hero Gabriele D'Annunzio, neo-realist film, Americanization and post-World War II consumerism, domestic terrorism, the North/South political and cultural divide, and other topics. The format is discussion-based with some lecture.

Required Texts

Besides readings available through Reserves Direct, the following books are required:

1. Ben-Ghiat, Ruth. *Fascist Modernities: Italy, 1922-1945*

ISBN: 9780520242166

2. Silone, Ignazio. *Bread and Wine*

ISBN: 9780451529787

3. Stille, Alexander. *The Sack of Rome: Media + Money + Celebrity = Power = Silvio Berlusconi*

ISBN: 9780143112105

The Following book is recommended:

1. Duggan, Christopher. *The Force of Destiny: A History of Italy Since 1796*

ISBN: 9780618353675

Course Evaluation

Assignments	Details	% of Total Grade
<i>Bread and Wine</i> Paper	5-8 page analysis of Ignazio Silone's <i>Bread and Wine</i>	15%
Research Paper	8-10 pages. On the topic of the student's choice	30%
Class Presentation 1	Brief introduction to the week's readings	5%
Class Presentation 2	Short Presentation on student's paper topic	15%
Participation	Participation in class discussions	15%
Attendance		10%
Reading Responses	Reading responses posted to Blackboard	10%

Assignments

All assignments MUST be handed in at the time indicated by the instructor. For each twenty-four hour period after that point, a full letter grade will be deducted from the assignment.

In addition, students must read the assigned discussion readings for each class (look under "Class Schedule" to find the readings) and post a brief READING RESPONSE (about half a page in length) on our Blackboard site. In preparing reading responses students should not simply give their opinion of the reading but should critically discuss one or more aspects of the reading that they find particularly significant and/or relevant to that day's discussion. The reading responses must be posted to the Blackboard site by 12pm on the day the reading response is due. The instructor WILL NOT read any reading responses posted after that time.

Every week or two the instructor will feature one particularly insightful reading response on the class webpage, if the author of said reading response gives her/his consent.

Attendance and Participation

This is a discussion-based class. Therefore attendance and active participation are both expected and required. Come to class prepared with questions to guide discussion. Bring the day's assigned reading to class!

Since attendance is so critical to your success in this course, for every absence you incur over five, one percentage point will be deducted from your attendance grade. All absences will be counted---there are no excused absences!

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to uphold the Emory HONOR CODE. Please be especially mindful that you provide the proper citation for any use of a direct quote, paraphrase or

idea from someone else. PLAGIARISM will not be tolerated. Note that this also applies to reading responses. DO NOT copy a friend's reading response. Doing so is an act of plagiarism.

Classroom Etiquette

The following are the class etiquette regulations: cell phones must be turned OFF before class begins, no texting, no IMing, no doing homework, no eating in class. In addition, showing up more than five minutes late for class will result in a half absence.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, because this is a discussion-based class, there will be no laptop use during class. Please keep laptops closed. Bring a pen and paper to class for taking notes.

Class Schedule

Introduction

January 15, 2014

- Introduction to the class.

January 17, 2014

- Lucy Riall, "Garibaldi: The First Celebrity," *History Today*, 57:8 (2007): 41-47.

D'Annunzio

January 22, 2014

- Robert Pearce, "D'Annunzio, Fiume & Fascism," *History Review*, 64 (2009), pp. 24-29.

January 24, 2014

- Michael A. Ledeen, "The Sacred Entrance," *D'Annunzio: The First Duce*, pp. 58-77.

Futurism

January 27, 2014

- Lawrence Rainey, "Introduction," *Futurism: An Anthology*, pp. 1-2, 9-13.
- F.T. Marinetti, "The Futurist Manifesto" (1909)

January 29, 2014

- Enrico Cavacchioli "The Missile"
- Umberto Boccioni, "High Society Shoe + Urine"
- Giacomo Balla, "Noise-Making Onomatopoeia Typewriter"

January 31, 2014

- Valentine de Saint-Point, "Manifesto of the Futurist Woman (Response to F.T. Marinetti)" (1912)
- Volt, "Futurist Manifesto of Women's Fashion" (1920)
- F.T. Marinetti, "Manifesto of the Italian Futurist Party" (1918)

Fascism 1

February 3, 2014

- Benito Mussolini, “Political and Social Doctrine,” *Fascism: Doctrines and Institutions*, pp. 15-31.

February 5, 2014

- Ruth Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, pp. 1-15.

February 7, 2014

- Ruth Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, pp. 17-37.

Fascism 2

February 10, 2014

- Marla Stone, “Staging Fascism: The Exhibition of the Fascist Revolution,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 28:2 (1993): 215-243.

February 12, 2014

- Ruth Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, pp. 93-107

February 14, 2014

- Ruth Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, pp. 107-122.

Fascism 3

February 17, 2014

- Mauro Canali, “Ignazio Silone and the Fascist Political Police,” *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* 5:1 (2000): 36-55.

***Bread and Wine Paper Due

February 19, 2014

- Ruth Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, pp. 123-130.

February 21, 2014

- Ruth Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, pp. 148-157.

The Transition to Democracy

February 24, 2014

- Ruth Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, pp. 202-209.

February 26, 2014

- Christopher Duggan, *The Force of Destiny*, pp. 529-547.

February 28, 2014

- Sergio Luzzatto, *The Body of the Duce*, pp. 117-138.

Neo-Realism, the Economic Miracle, and Americanization

March 3, 2014

- Discussion of Roberto Rossellini’s *Rome, Open City*.

March 5, 2014

- Christopher Duggan, *The Force of Destiny*, pp. 548-559.

March 7, 2014

- Paolo Scrivano, “Signs of Americanization in Italian Domestic Life: Italy’s Postwar Conversion to Consumerism,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 40:317 (2005).

The Mafia, Terrorism, and Film

March 17, 2014

- John Dickie, *Cosa Nostra*, pp. 13-20, 191-198, 250-252.

March 19, 2014

- Discussion of Alberto Lattuada's *Mafioso*.

March 21, 2014

- Alan O'Leary, "Italian Cinema and the 'anni di piombo'," *Journal of European Studies* 40:243 (2010).

Berlusconi: Introduction and Beginnings

March 24, 2014

- Alexander Stille, *The Sack of Rome*, pp. ix-12.

March 26, 2014

- Alexander Stille, *The Sack of Rome*, pp. 13-34.

March 28, 2014

- Alexander Stille, *The Sack of Rome*, pp. 35-51.

Class Presentations

March 31, 2014

April 2, 2014

April 4, 2014

Class Presentations And Berlusconi

April 7, 2014

April 9, 2014

April 11, 2014

- Alexander Stille, *The Sack of Rome*, pp. 52-73.

Berlusconi: From Businessman to Politician

April 14, 2014

- Alexander Stille, *The Sack of Rome*, pp. 74-98.

April 16, 2014

- Alexander Stille, *The Sack of Rome*, pp. 120-150.

April 18, 2014

- Alexander Stille, *The Sack of Rome*, pp. 151-184.

Berlusconi: In (and Out) of Power

April 21, 2014

- Alexander Stille, *The Sack of Rome*, pp. 295-312.

April 23, 2014

- Alexander Stille, *The Sack of Rome*, pp. 313-342.

April 25, 2014

- Chris Bickerton and Carlo Invernizzi Accetti, “In Search of the New Berlusconi,” *Al Jazeera*, 27 December 2013.
<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/12/search-new-berlusconi-20131217133415905527.html>
- Other readings TBA.

Conclusions

April 28, 2014

*** Final Paper Due. No readings.

*** Viewing *Women's Bodies* documentary.

This syllabus is subject to change.