Hist 300 - One Man Italy. Mussolini and the Fascist Regime
(Valentina Raparelli)

The course provides a critical and comprehensive overview of the main themes regarding Italian Fascism. While retaining a Europe-wide perspective throughout, we will explore in particular depth the Italian totalitarian regime. The analysis will combine an inquiry of its historical context with a critical examination of different sources such as literature, film, art, etc..

The first part will investigate both the roots of the Fascist dictatorship and its political ideology, governance and communication style. The course will focus, among others, on the following issues: why Fascism was a totalitarian regime; the anti-modernist rhetoric; the masculine “mystique” (gender relations and family); racism and racial purification; the myth of “Romanità”; the major role played by art and architecture, in an age which precedes mass media. This course will provide opportunities for students to consider Fascism just not an exclusively inter-war phenomenon, the product of particular circumstances in Italian history. The final section will in fact analyze the historical legacy of Fascism in post-war Italy, as well as the resurgence of right wing extremist political tendencies in the 1980’s and 1990’s.

Bibliography

- Adamson W. L., Avant-garde modernism and Italian Fascism: cultural politics in the era of Mussolini, Journal of Modern Italian Studies, 2001;
- Adler Franklin H., Why Mussolini turned on the Jews, Pattern of Prejudice, 2005;
- Agosto, Paolo, The language of Mussolini, The Italianist, 2015;
- Barrera Giulia, Mussolini’s colonial racial laws and state-settler relations in Africa Orientale Italiana (1935-1941), in Journal of Modern Italian Studies, 2010;
- Bellasai Sandro, The masculine mystique: antimodernism and virility in Fascist Italy, Journal of Modern Italian Studies, 2007;
- Bosworth R. J., Mussolini’s Rome: Rebuilding the Eternal City, History Reviews of New Books, 2006;
- Corner Paul, The Road to Fascism: An Italian Sonderweg, Contemporary European History 11, no. 2 (May 2002);
- Corner Paul, Italian Fascism: organization, enthusiasm, opinion, Journal of Modern Italian Studies, 2010;
- De Grand Alexander, Mussolini’s Follies: Fascism in Its Imperial and Racist Phase, 1935-1940, Contemporary European History, 2004;
- De Grazia Victoria, How Fascism ruled women, University of California Press,
1922;
- Gentile, E, Mussolini’s charisma, Modern Italy n. 2, 1998;
- Gentile, E, New idols: Catholicism in the face of Italian Totalitarism, in Modern Italian Studies, 2006;
- Gilette Aaron, The origins of the “Manifesto of racial scientists”, Journal of Modern Italian Studies, 2001;
- Ginsborg Paul, Italian Family, in Family Politics: Domestic Life, Devastation and Survival 1900-1950, Yale University Press, 2013;
- Gori Gigliola, Model of masculinity: the “new Italian” of the Fascist era, The International Journal of the History of Sport, 1999;
- Griffin Roger, The Nature of Fascism, Routledge, 1993;
- Knee S. E., The strange alliance: Mussolini, Pope Pius XI and the Lateran Treaty, in Mediterranean Historical Review, 1990;
- Luconi Stefano, Recent trends in the study of Italian anti-Semitism under the Fascist regime, Pattern of Prejudice, 2004;
- Nelis Jan, Constructing Fascist Identity: Benito Mussolini and the myth of “Romanità”, The classical world, 2007;
- Roberts David D., Myth, Style, Substance and Totalitarian Dynamic in Fascist Italy, Contemporary European History, 2007;
- Roberst David D., Ordinary violence in Mussolini’s Italy, Journal of Modern Italian Studies, 2012;
- Sorgoni Barbara, “Defending the race”: the Italian reinvention of Hottentot venus during Fascism, Journal of modern Italian Studies, 2003;
- Sorlin Pierre, A mirror for Fascism. How Mussolini used cinema to advertise his Pearson and Regime, Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television, 2007;
Nature of Assignments:

**Mid-Term Exam**

Test on arguments covered to this date.

**Pages Research Paper**

The purpose of writing a research paper is to clearly communicate what you have learned through your research. Your research for this course will focus on a topic among those indicated by Lecturer on a list to follow.

According to school policy you cannot present the same paper for two (or more) different courses. This will be evaluated with F grade.

The length of the paper should be between eight and twelve pages (2,500-4,000 words), using double space, character size 12. Eight pages is the minimum for a paper to be accepted. Papers must be typed, written in decent style and include documentation of sources of information in proper footnotes.

- Handwritten papers are not accepted
- One letter grade will be deducted for the first week of delay in handing in the final paper
- Late papers may not be accepted
- Plagiarism will bring you “F” grade
- All papers should have a pertinent bibliography. Websites (accepted in a very limited number) must be cited as references

**Final Exam:**

Test on arguments covered during the entire course.

**Assessment Policy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Test</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Test</td>
<td>40 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please note that according to faculty academic resolution for no reason students are allowed to take tests at dates different from those scheduled.

Students leaving the program early will not be granted credit.

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE TO ALL CLASSES IS ESSENTIAL AND MANDATORY. ATTENDANCE TO DISCUSSIONS AND VISITS DURING FIELD TRIP IS ALSO MANDATORY, AND WILL BE AN ESSENTIAL PART FOR THE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION.

Class Participation

Students are expected to actively participate and contribute to class discussion. Participation grade requires more preparation and contribution, and if a student is not in class he/she is not contributing or receiving the inputs of his/her classmates and teacher.

Class participation will be evaluated on the basis of:

- Questions
- Commentaries and analysis on lecturer’s and others’ ideas
- Reading the assignments before class
- Contribution to the class group as a community

Class participation will count for 10%.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week I

- Historical introduction and general overview of the course
- Fascism’s origins and its intellectual influences
- Who was Benito Mussolini?

Week II

- Was Fascism an ideology?
- “Mussolinismo” and the cult of personality
- What is a totalitarian State?
• The Fascist State organization

Week III

• Fascism as a political religion
• Fascist propaganda
• Art and cinema under Fascism

Week IV

Review
Mid-term test

Week V

• The cult of Romanità
• Fascism and modernism

Week VI

• The Catholic Church and Fascism
• Nazism and Fascism

Week VII

• Family, Women, cult of masculinity
• Colonialism
• Racism and antisemitism

Week VIII

• The Resistance movement
• Fascism in Republican Italy

Week IX

Review
Final test

- Documentaries of Istituto Luce

Field trip to Rome