



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**History Programme
2008 TRIMESTER 1**

HIST238: FROM FASCISM TO FORZA ITALIA: A CULTURAL HISTORY OF ITALY, 1922-2000

CRN 15523

Lecturers: Dr Giacomo Lichtner and Dr Sally Hill

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Lecture Times: Monday and Thursday 13.10-14.00

Venue: Hugh McKenzie 104 (HMLT104)

Office Hours: Tuesday 10.00-12.00

Additional Information:

Additional information or information on changes during the course will be posted on the History notice board, announced in lectures and on Blackboard.

Course content:

This course is designed to introduce students to the social, political and cultural history of Italy in the 20th Century. Between 1922 and 2000, Italy underwent dramatic transformations, from dictatorship to democracy and from a backward rural economy to a modern industrial one. Yet this course will not only provide a survey of

Italian history in the 20th Century, but also pay particular attention to the changes that have affected the lives of most Italians over the course of the twentieth century. Key issues will include: the transition from fascism to democracy; the development of consumerism; Italy's place in the world economy; social mobility; immigration and emigration; women's changing role in society; the relationship between popular culture and political power. Students will be encouraged to analyse in depth the contradictions that still characterise Italian society and question the extent to which, in the Italian case, change contains and conceals continuity.

Course objectives:

HIST 238 is taught in conjunction with ITAL 235, a course offered by the Italian Programme and co-ordinated by Dr. Sally Hill. The two courses were designed together to offer a new approach to the study of Italian history and culture. This interdisciplinary approach is designed critically to assess the interaction of culture, society and politics in Twentieth Century Italy. The course will examine the history of Italy from the rise of Fascism, through the tumultuous yet stable, ideologically-polarised post-war period, until the end of the 'First

Republic' and the rise of media mogul Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party. Within this chronological framework, the course will dedicate particular attention to recurrent themes in Italian history, such as the practice of politics, the role of the Catholic Church, the structure and importance of the family unit, regionalism and migratory fluxes.

Students will be expected to become familiar with the key concepts of Italian history, culture, politics and society, and will be asked to employ cultural history sources – including film, literature and photography – alongside more conventional historical and historiographical sources. This will allow them to critically engage with the role of popular culture in key issues of modern Italian history such as the development of a coherent and inclusive national identity. Hence, alongside the lectures and tutorials, students will be encouraged to attend a film showing each week.

It is envisaged that at the successful completion of HIST 238, students will have obtained a good grasp of key events in the development of the Italian nation in the period between 1922 and 2001, and be able to assess the role played by popular culture and counter-culture in the development of the nation.

Students of HIST238 will be able to:

- Assess and analyse relevant sources, including historiography and alternative material,
- Critically and independently engage with sources, both secondary and primary (in their English translation)
- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the key concepts in Italian history
- Place these specific issues within a wider European and global context
- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical context of Italian popular culture and assess its role in the development of 20th C. Italy

- Extend their research and bibliographical skills
- Enhance their communication skills in written and oral form

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote at least 12 hours per week to HIST238. This includes 2 hours of lectures and 1 hour of tutorial attendance per week.

Essential texts:

Students of HIST238 are required to purchase the HIST238 Book of Readings, which is available from Student Notes and contains material relevant to the tutorials. There is no other textbook for this course, however, students may find it useful to familiarise themselves with the following works:

- Paul Ginsborg, *A history of contemporary Italy : society and politics, 1943-1988*, London: Penguin, 1988
- Id., *Italy and its discontents : family, civil society, state 1980-2001*, London: Allen Lane, 2001
- Martin Clark, *Modern Italy, 1871-1995*, Second Edition, Harlow: Pearson Education Ltd., 1996.

Assessment requirements:

The assessment procedure aims to establish that the students have gained a good overall understanding of Italian history, with a particular focus on the interaction of popular culture, politics and history. Therefore, the students will be asked to write two essays of equal weighting on aspects of Italian cultural history, and to complete an end-of-term test which will assess students' ability to discuss critically the broader themes analysed in the course. Moreover, a small percentage of the final mark will be determined by an oral presentation during the tutorials, in which each student will be asked to lead their tutorial by introducing the main themes and leading the ensuing discussion. A

timetable for the students' presentations will be set during the first tutorial in week two.

- (a) **Seminar presentation and in-class contribution** worth **15%** of the final grade. **Deadlines vary.**
- (b) **Two Essays** (2,000-2,500 words each) worth **30%** each:
 - a. **Essay One** is due on **Friday 11 April, 5pm.**
 - b. **Essay Two** is due on **Wednesday 22 May, 5pm**
- (c) **Terms Test**, worth **25%** of the final grade. The test will take place in the last lecture slot, on **Thursday 29 May, 13.00pm, HM104.**

IMPORTANT:

You must gain an overall grade of C, (50) for the four assessments. There is no scheduled make-up test date and there is no registry examination for HIST238

Statement on penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays - a deduction of **5%** for the **first day**, plus an additional **2% per day** up to a maximum of **eight days**, from marks awarded to such a late essay. However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. **In such cases prior information will be necessary.** It is in your interests to contact the course coordinator as soon as a potential problem emerges – not just before a deadline. Obtain an extension form from the History administrator and agree to a new due date for the assessment.

Mandatory course requirements

To pass the course each student must:

- 1. Attend **at least 8** of the 11 tutorials;
- AND
- 2. Complete the assignments specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);

Faculty guidelines permit you to miss up to 3 tutorials without penalty. Extra absences will result in a student failing terms, except in cases of serious illness (supported by a medical certificate), or serious personal crisis. **THERE IS NO PROVISION IN THIS COURSE FOR MAKE-UPS TO COMPENSATE FOR ADDITIONAL ABSENCES EXCEPT UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.** You should allow for the possibility of unforeseen illness when using up your quota of permissible absences.

PLEASE NOTE that **Friday 8 June 2008** is the FINAL DATE on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme, since this is the date on which we must determine whether students have met the course requirements. This means that the provision for late submission with a penalty does not apply beyond this date. Permission to submit work after 8 June must be sought in writing from the Head of Programme, and will only be granted for serious medical reasons (supported by medical certificate), or in case of serious personal crisis.

NB: A student who has obtained an overall mark of 50% or more, but failed to satisfy a mandatory requirement for a course, will receive a K grade for that course, while a course mark less than 50% will result in the appropriate fail grade (D, E or F).

Aegrotats

Please note that under the Assessment Statute (Sections 4.5) students may now apply for an aegrotat pass in respect of any item of

assessment falling within the last three weeks before the day on which lectures cease. In the case of **first trimester** courses in 2008 the starting point for this period is **Monday 12 May 2008**.

The following rules apply:

- where a student is not able to sit a test falling within these last three weeks because of illness or injury etc., an alternative test will be arranged where possible. If the student has completed in the view of the course supervisor, sufficient marked assessment relevant to the objectives of the course, an average mark may be offered. Where a student has an essay or other piece of assessment due in the last three weeks, and has a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation, the student will be given an extension.
- if none of the above is available to the student, e.g., if she/he has an ongoing illness, than an aegrotat will be considered. See Assessment Statute (Sections 4.5) for a full explanation of the rules governing the provision of aegrotats in these circumstances.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism :

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times. Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were ones own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct. All cases will be recorded on a central database and severe penalties may be imposed. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

The University requires that certain information be communicated to students, either in the course outline or electronically (ref. Assessment Handbook 3.3). The current version of this information (adapted for FHSS courses) is below, and has also been saved as a separate document in the Common Folder (M:\Common\Course Administration\Course Outlines). This may be appended to your course outline without alteration.

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under “Course Outline General Information” at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

LECTURE PROGRAMME

25 February

Introduction to the Course: Recurrent themes in contemporary Italian history. (Dr Hill and Dr Lichtner)

28 February

Making Italy and Making Italians: 1861-1918 (Dr Lichtner)

3 March

Fascism I: Origins and Rise of the Movement (Dr Lichtner)

6 March

Italian Culture Under Fascism (Dr Hill)

10 March

Fascism II: Life and Fall of the Regime (Dr Lichtner)

13 March

War and Literature: Amato, Pavese and Levi (Dr Hill)

17 March

Civil War, National Unity: Italy, 1943-'48 (Dr Lichtner)

20 March

New Approaches to Reality: Italian Neo-Realism (Dr Hill)

24 March - Easter Monday

27 March

USA-DC-Vatican: The Status Quo of the 1950s (Dr Lichtner)

31 March

Obsession with Unreality: *La Dolce Vita* (Dr Hill)

3 April

The Economic Miracle: 1958-1963 (Dr Lichtner)

7 April

The Americanization of Italian Culture (Dr Hill)

10 April

1968 (Dr Lichtner)

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

28 April

Pasolini

1 May

A modern society? Societal Change in the 1970s (Dr Lichtner)

5 May

Italian feminism: Franca Rame (Dr Hill)

8 May

Democracy Under Threat (Dr Lichtner)

12 May

Counter-Culture: Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Dr Hill)

15 May

The End of the First Republic (Dr Lichtner)

19 May

Political Comedy After the Cold War: Nanni Moretti

22 May

A Second Republic? The Rise and Fall (and Rise?) of Silvio Berlusconi (Dr Lichtner)

26 May

Conclusion: Continuity and Change (Dr Lichtner)

29 May In-Class Test