

ITAL 235 From Fascism to Forza Italia: A Cultural History of Italy

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures

Trimester 1 2008

22 Points

Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

STAFF

The Italian Programme of the School of Asian and European Languages and Cultures (SAELC) is located on the 5th and 6th Floor of the Von Zedlitz (VZ) Building, Kelburn Parade. Staff Offices in the Italian Section are as follows:

VZ 601	Claudia Bernardi claudia.bernardi@vuw.ac.nz	Programme Director & Lecturer	ph. 463 5646
VZ 602	Dr Sarah (Sally) Hill sarah.hill@vuw.ac.nz	Lecturer	ph. 463 5298
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VZ 610	Nina Cuccurullo (Nina is available from 8.15am to 4.15pm, Monday to Friday) nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz	Administrator	ph. 463 5293
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SAELC VZ 613	Co-ordinator for Maori and Pacific Students Dr Richard Millington richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz		ph. 463 5976

The Course Co-ordinators and Lecturers for ITAL 235 are Dr. Sarah (Sally) Hill (Italian Programme) and Dr. Giacomo Lichtner (History Programme). They are available for student consultation at the times indicated below:

Dr Sally Hill - Thursday 2-3 and 4-5 pm, or by appointment

Dr Giacomo Lichtner - Tuesday 10-12 am, or by appointment.

Office located at OK (Old Kirk), phone: 463 6756, email: giacomo.lichtner@vuw.ac.nz

CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

Lectures

Mondays and Thursdays from 1.10-2.00 pm in HM (Hugh Mackenzie) LT104.

Tutorial/Seminar (Oral Classes)

Thursday from 3.10-4 pm in VZ (von Zedlitz) 509.

In addition, from week 2 onward, screenings of films will be held outside class times (see Course Programme and Contents).

Please note that cellular phones and pagers should be switched off for the duration of all classes and screenings.

COURSE CONTENT

ITAL 235 is a first trimester 22-point course for 200-level students of Italian, taught in conjunction with HIST 238. 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. This course will not only provide a survey of Italian history and culture in the 20th Century, but also pay particular attention to the changes that have affected the lives of most Italians over that period. 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 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aims

- (i) to explain key concepts of Italian history, culture, politics and society;
- (ii) to employ cultural sources alongside historical and historiographical sources;
- (iii) to engage critically with the role of popular culture in key issues of modern Italian history and society;
- (iv) to extend students' ability to understand a variety of Italian texts (fiction, poetry, theatre, and cinema);
- (v) to teach students basic critical theory and textual analysis skills and encourage them to express themselves critically (both orally and in writing) about the texts studied in the course.

Objectives

Upon completing the course successfully students will be able to:

- (i) demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of contemporary Italian history and culture;
- (ii) analyse these subjects from a variety of critical perspectives;
- (iii) select and organise relevant information from different sources, in both Italian and English;

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- (iv) discuss the relevance of particular cultural and historical texts;
- (v) effectively present information and arguments related to the contents of the course in both oral and written form.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Committee on Workloads and Assessment has laid down guidelines as to the number of hours per week which students are expected to devote to a course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. Students enrolling in a 200-level, one trimester, 22-point course should work on average 15 hours per week, including the 3 contact hours – i.e., in the case of ITAL 235, 12 hours of private study outside class time.

TEXTS

ITAL 235 Course Handbook 2008 (Wellington: Victoria University). The course handbook is available from Student Notes, Student Union Building.

ASSESSMENT

The essays, seminar contributions and final written test relate to all five objectives specified in section under Aims and Objectives

ITAL 235 will be assessed on the basis of:

- Two 1500-word essays, worth 30% each, due by 5 pm on 3 April and 8 May
- Seminar contributions: discussion leading + tutorial summaries, worth 5% each
- 1 final test (worth 30%)

The relevant dates for assessed work are detailed in the Course Programme and Content.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete ITAL 235, students are required to do the following, unless specific exemptions have been agreed to:

- (i) submit the two written essays by the due dates (3 April and 8 May);
- (ii) lead a seminar discussion on a date agreed with the lecturer, and hand in a one-page written summary of each discussion by the following Monday;
- (iii) sit the final written test;
- (iv) attend at least 80% of the tutorial/seminar classes

To pass ITAL 235 students must meet the mandatory course requirements and achieve at least a C average over all assessment. Students who gain at least 50% of the course marks but fail the course due to not satisfying a mandatory course requirement will receive a K grade. Students who gain less than 50% will receive a D or an E grade, whether or not they completed the mandatory course requirements.

The relation of grades to percentages, for any work and for the course as a whole, is as follows: A+ (85-100%), A (80-84%), A- (75-79%), B+ (70-74%), B (65-69%), B- (60-64%), C+ (55-59%), C (50-54%), D (40-49%), E (0-39%).

PENALTIES

The due dates for the essays given in the Course Timetable must be adhered to. Although work may be accepted late in special circumstances, the Course Co-ordinator should always be contacted on or before the due dates if there is a problem. The penalty for work presented late without prior approval is a 5% deduction per day. In addition, please note that up to a maximum of 5% may be deducted for poorly presented essays.

PRESENTATION OF ESSAYS

Tidy presentation of essays is essential. Work may be typed or neatly handwritten. Crossings-out indicate that a piece of work is still at draft stage. Allow space for correction: leave a 4-centimetre margin and write on alternate lines. Do not write in pencil. All essays must include a cover sheet available from SAELC Reception, Von Zedlitz (VZ) 610. Essays are to be handed in to the Italian assignment slot located to the left of the SAELC Reception area. Corrected work will be handed out in class. If you do not collect work in class, you will be able to collect it from SAELC Reception. All work not collected will be destroyed 3 months after the date of the final written test.

TESTS AND IMPAIRMENT

Test dates given in the course timetable must be adhered to. You should always sit a test if humanly possible, obtaining a medical certificate if you wish to claim impairment. If you sit a test but believe your performance has been radically affected by some medical or other factor, inform the Course Co-ordinator immediately. If you fail the test you may be able to claim impairment. If you are unable to sit a test for severe medical, personal or family reasons, you should do everything possible to notify the Course Co-ordinator, if necessary through the Administrator, before the test, or to get a friend or family member to do so on your behalf. Only in cases of severe illness or other exceptionally difficult circumstances, which must normally be documented, can the Programme consider allowing students to sit a test at a different time from that indicated.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT EVALUATIONS

In the second week of lectures, staff will facilitate the election of a class representative. Student reps are a valuable means of communication between teaching staff and students. In addition students can approach any member of staff individually to talk about the courses as a whole, any particular aspect of it, or their own individual progress. At the end of the course students may be asked to fill out questionnaires prepared by the University's Teaching and Development Centre. These questionnaires relate either to the course, or to an individual lecturer's contribution. They are an important part of the University's accountability process, and the results are helpful in the University's attempts to maintain and raise the standards of the education it offers.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Italian noticeboard is in the corridor outside the rooms (VZ 503 and VZ504). Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students either via class, noticeboards, Blackboard, or email.

ITALIAN CLUB, STUDENT FACILITIES

All students of Italian are encouraged to join the students' Italian Club and to participate in the cultural and social events organised. The Italian seminar room for tutorials and small classes is usually Von Zedlitz (VZ) 509, unless otherwise stated. Room Von Zedlitz (VZ) 603 is a *library* where Italian books, newspapers and magazines are available for borrowing and consultation.

LANGUAGE LEARNING CENTRE

The Language Learning Centre (Level 0, von Zedlitz Building) facilitates independent learning and supports the teaching of languages. The LLC is a friendly and supportive environment where you can immerse yourself in language and culture through access to a variety of multimedia language resources: everything from print, audio, DVDs, comprehensive computer software and access to live satellite TV in several languages.

Enjoy the freedom to choose and direct your own learning: you select the materials and activities that you find interesting, which help you meet your needs and suit your learning style. Make time to study at the LLC regularly and you will reap the rewards of higher academic success.

Visit the centre at any time for advice and assistance, and to study. It is open year-round, with extended hours during university trimesters.

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: The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's 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 and may be penalized severely. 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/studying/plagiarism.html

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

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

COURSE PROGRAMME AND CONTENTS**Lecture Programme**

Lecture	Date	Topic	Tests/Assessments
1.	25 February	Introduction to the Course: Recurrent themes in contemporary Italian history. (Dr Hill and Dr Lichtner)	
2.	28 February	Making Italy and Making Italians: 1861-1918 (Dr Lichtner)	
3.	3 March	Fascism I: Origins and Rise of the Movement (Dr Lichtner)	
4.	6 March	Italian Culture Under Fascism (Dr Hill)	
5.	10 March	Fascism II: Life and Fall of the Regime (Dr Lichtner)	
6.	13 March	War and Literature: Amato, Pavese and Levi (Dr Hill)	
7.	17 March	Civil War, National Unity: Italy, 1943-'48 (Dr Lichtner)	
8.	20 March	New Approaches to Reality: Italian Neo-Realism (Dr Hill)	
9.	24 March	Easter Monday— NO CLASS	
10.	27 March	USA-DC-Vatican: The Status Quo of the 1950s (Dr Lichtner)	
11.	31 March	Obsession with Unreality: <i>La Dolce Vita</i> (Dr Hill)	
12.	3 April	The Economic Miracle: 1958-1963 (Dr Lichtner)	<u>First Essay Due</u>
13.	7 April	The Americanization of Italian Culture (Dr Hill)	
14.	10 April	1968 (Dr Lichtner)	
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15.	28 April	Pasolini and the sessantottini (Dr Hill)	
16.	1 May	A Modern Society? Societal Change in the 1970s (Dr Lichtner)	
17.	5 May	Franca Rame/Italian Feminism (Dr Hill)	
18.	8 May	Democracy Under Threat (Dr Lichtner)	<u>Second Essay Due</u>
19.	12 May	Counter-Culture: Dario Fo's <i>Accidental Death of an Anarchist</i> (Dr Hill)	
20.	15 May	The End of the First Republic (Dr Lichtner)	
21.	19 May	Political Comedy After the Cold War: Nanni Moretti (Dr Hill)	
22.	22 May	A Second Republic? The Rise and Fall (and Rise?) of Silvio Berlusconi (Dr Lichtner)	
23.	26 May	Conclusion: Continuity and Change (Dr Lichtner)	
24.	29 May	Last class	<u>Final Written Test</u>

Tutorial/Seminar Programme

You must sign up to lead a seminar discussion (worth 5% of final mark) by the end of the first week. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the Italian Programme Noticeboard on the 5th floor of the Von Zedlitz (VZ) building. Students will also be expected to submit a brief summary of each week's discussion by Monday of the following week. One of your summaries will be selected at random for marking, and will be worth 5% of your final mark.

Discussion of Readings/Screenings

Each week from week 2 on at least one student will be expected to lead the discussion (in English or Italian) on one of the Italian texts or films. S/he will go through the readings and prepare a series of discussion questions, which will be circulated to all class members the week before class.

Students will be required to familiarise themselves with the prescribed readings, but discussion will focus specifically on the Italian texts (marked with an asterisk below).

WEEK 1 (week beginning 25 February) Library visit

Tutorial 1: WEEK 2 (week beginning 3 March) Introduction

Jonathan Dunnage, 'Italian Society in the Wake of the *Risorgimento*, 1860-1914' - *Twentieth-Century Italy: a social history*, London, 2002, pp. 4-37. (p. 1)

Tutorial 2: WEEK 3 (week beginning 10 March) *Blasetti's 1860*

Victoria de Grazia, 'Motherhood' - *How fascism ruled women*, Berkeley, 1992, pp. 41-76. (p. 19)

Stanislao G. Pugliese (ed.), 'Letters from Women', 'Fascist Anthems', 'The Fascist Decalogue' - *Fascism, anti-fascism and the resistance in Italy: 1919 to the present*, Oxford, 2004, pp. 97-101, 131-4, 146-7. (p. 38)

*Angela Dalle Vacche, 'National Tradition in Blasetti's *1860*' - *Film Criticism*, Vol. 9, no. 1, Fall 1984, pp. 74-81. (p. 44)

Tutorial 3: WEEK 4 (week beginning 17 March) *Writers and Fascism, Writers and War*

Stanislao G. Pugliese (ed.), "*Facetta Nera*; Little Black Face," "Racial Manifesto," *Fascism, Anti-Fascism and the Resistance in Italy: 1919 to the Present*, Oxford, 2004, pp. 191-5.

Davide Rodogno, "*Italiani brava gente?* Fascist Italy's policy toward the Jews in the Balkans, April 1941-July 1943," *European History Quarterly*, Vol. 35, no. 2, 2004, pp. 213-40.

*Renato Amato, "Only a Matter of Grammar," *The Full Circle of the Travelling Cuckoo*, Christchurch, 1967, pp. 26-36.

*Dante Alighieri, *Inferno* Canto XXVI, lines 49-42, *The Divine Comedy*, trans. Charles S Singleton, Princeton University Press, 1970, pp 274-281.

*Primo Levi, "Il Canto di Ulisse," *Se questo è un uomo. La tregua*, Torino, 1958, pp. 98-103.

*Cesare Pavese, "XXIII," *La casa in collina*, Turin, 1990, pp 120-123.

Tutorial 4: WEEK 5 (week beginning 24 March) Neorealism and the Transition to Democracy

Paolo Pezzino, "The Italian Resistance Between History and Memory," *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, Vol. 10, no. 4, 2005, pp. 396-412.

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*David Overbey, *Springtime in Italy: A Reader in Neo-Realism*, Archon, 1979, pp 1-33, 67-78, 87-88 and 89-91 (Overbey's "Introduction," Zavattini "A Thesis on Neo-realism," De Sica "Why *Ladri di biciclette*?" and Rossellini "A Few Words about Neo-realism")

*Millicent Marcus, "Rossellini's *Open City*: The Founding," *Italian Film in the Light of Neo-Realism*, Princeton, New Jersey, Princeton University Press, 1986. pp 33-53.

Tutorial 5: WEEK 6 (week beginning 31 March) Society and Culture in the 1950s

*Peter Bondanella, "*La dolce vita*. The Art Film Spectacular," *The Films of Federico Fellini*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Emanuela Scarpellini, "Shopping American-Style: The Arrival of the Supermarket in Postwar Italy" *Enterprise & Society*, Vol. 5, no. 4, pp. 652-68.

*Italo Calvino, "Marcovaldo al supermarket," *Marcovaldo, ovvero Le stagioni in città*, Milan, 1993, pp 93-99.

Tutorial 6: WEEK 7 (week beginning 7 April) The Economic Miracle and the *commedia all'italiana*

John Foot, "Migration and the 'Miracle' at Milan. The Neighbourhoods of Baggio, Barona, Bovisa and Comasina in the 1950s and 1960s," *Journal of Historical Sociology*, Vol. 10, no. 2, June 1997, pp. 184-212.

*Pierre Sorlin, "Fourth Generation: The Sweet Life," *Italian National Cinema 1896-1996*, London, 1996, pp.115-143.

Paul Ginsborg, "Statistical Appendix," *A History of Contemporary Italy: Society and Politics 1943-1988*, London, 1990, pp. 427-455.

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK [14 APRIL – 27 APRIL]

Tutorial 7: WEEK 8 (week beginning 28 April) 1968 and Pier Paolo Pasolini

Stuart J. Hilwig, "Are you Calling Me a Fascist? A Contribution to the Oral History of the 1968 Italian Student Rebellion," *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 36, no. 4, 2001, pp. 581-97.

*Pier Paolo Pasolini, "Il PCI ai Giovani!!" *Empirismo eretico*, Milano c.1972, pp. 155-163.

Tutorial 8: WEEK 9 (week beginning 5 May) Italian society in the 1970s

Luisa Passerini, "The Interpretation of Democracy in the Italian Women's Movement of the 1970s and 1980's," *Women's Studies Int. Forum*, Vol. 17, Nos 2/3, 1994, pp 235-239.

*Franca Rame and Dario Fo, "Tutta casa, letto e chiesa," *Le commedie di Dario Fo*, Turin, 1989.

Francesca Anania, "Italian Public Television in the 1970s: A Predictable Confusion," *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* 15:3, 1995. 401-406

Philip Cooke, "The Resistance Continues: A Social Movement in the 1970s," *Modern Italy*, Vol. 5, 2, 2000, pp.161-173.

Tutorial 9: WEEK 10 (week beginning 12 May) Dario Fo/Threats to Democracy

*Dario Fo, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist. Plays: One*, London, 1994, pp. 207-11, 145-56.

Franco Ferraresi, "The Strategy of Tension: A Case History," *Threats to Democracy: The Radical Right in Italy After the War*, Princeton University Press, New Jersey 1996, pp 84-115.

Stephen Gundle and Noëlleanne O'Sullivan, "The Mass Media and the Political Crisis," in Stephen Gundle and Simon Parker (eds.), *The New Italian Republic*, London, 1996, pp. 206-20.

Tutorial 10: WEEK 11 (week beginning 19 May)

Nanni Moretti/Italy between the First and Second Republic

R J B Bosworth, "A Country Split in Two? Contemporary Italy and Its Usable and Unusable Pasts," *History Compass* 4/6 (2006): 1089-1101.

*Guido Bonsaver, "The Egocentric Cassandra of the Left: Representation of Politics in the Films of Nanni Moretti," *The Italianist*, 21-22 (2001-2002): 159-180.

WEEK 12 (week beginning 28 May) **No Tutorial**

PROJECTION OF FILMS

All films studied in this course will be available for private viewing in the Audio Visual Suite of the main Victoria University Library (level 9) or in the Language Learning Centre (VZ level 0). Screenings of the films are scheduled for the following dates on Wednesday 5-7pm, OK 406 [from week 2]

Date	Director	Film
Wednesday 5 March	Alessandro Blasetti	<i>1860</i> (1934)
Wednesday 12 March	Roberto Rossellini	<i>Roma città aperta</i> (1945)
Wednesday 19 March	Vittorio De Sica	<i>Ladri di biciclette</i> (1947)
Wednesday 26 March	Federico Fellini	<i>La dolce vita</i> (1960)
Wednesday 2 April	Pietro Germi	<i>Divorzio all'italiana</i> (1962)
Wednesday 9 April	Bernardo Bertolucci	<i>Prima della rivoluzione</i> (1962)
Wednesday 30 April	Pier Paolo Pasolini	<i>La ricotta</i> (1963)
Wednesday 7 May	Marco Tullio Giordana	<i>I cento passi</i> (2000)
OR	A. Horrocks & G. Richards	Dario Fo's <i>Accidental Death of an Anarchist</i> (1983) (depending on availability)
Wednesday 14 May	Nanni Moretti	<i>Caro diario</i> (1993)
Wednesday 21 May	Students' choice: contemporary Italian film	