



**SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

HISTORY PROGRAMME

HIST238/ITAL235:

From Fascism to Forza Italia: A Cultural History of Italy, 1922- 2000

2009 TRIMESTER 1

2 March to 5 June 2009

CRN 15523

Lecturer: Dr Giacomo Lichtner and Dr Sally Hill

Room: OK 412

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Email: Giacomo.Lichtner@vuw.ac.nz

Office Hours: Monday, 9-11am

Lecture Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3-4pm,

Venue: Hugh McKenzie (HM), Lecture Theatre 104

Plus one one-hour tutorial. Please sign up to a tutorial during Week 1.

Course delivery

The delivery of this course consists of two one-hour lectures and one one-hour tutorial per week. Tutorial times and venues will be advertised in the first lecture and details will be posted on Blackboard or can be obtained from the History Office. Students will be required to sign up to a tutorial during the first week of the semester. Usually, the Monday lecture will be delivered by Dr Giacomo Lichtner and the Wednesday lecture by Dr Sally Hill, Senior Lecturer in Italian Studies and co-ordinator of Ital 235. All tutorials will be taken by Giacomo Lichtner.

Communication of additional information

Additional information or information on changes during the course will be posted on the Departmental 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.

Learning 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 HIST 238 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

Graduate attributes

HISTORY

As with all HIST courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific attributes:

Critical Thinking

- 1: Assess conflicting or different arguments
- 2: Develop understanding of historical events, context and change
- 3: Use appropriate methodologies to evaluate evidence

Creative Thinking

- 1: Synthesise information in a clear, logical and lively way
- 2: Create well-documented interpretations of historical events
- 3: Search for patterns in historical processes over time and space

Communication

- 1: Develop lucid historical arguments through writing and oral discussion
- 2: Use library print and online resources efficiently and constructively
- 3: Strengthen learning through collegial interchange

Leadership

- 1: Pursue and manage independent research
- 2: Develop critical citizenship
- 3: Develop confidence through public speaking
- 4: Strengthen decision-making capabilities

Other

- 1: Understand the development of the historical discipline

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to HIST 238. This includes 2 hours of lectures per week.

Group work

There are no group work requirements for HIST 238, although occasionally students may be asked to collaborate in the preparation of tutorials.

Readings

Essential texts:

Students of HIST 238 are required to purchase the HIST 238 Book of Readings, which is available from Student Notes and contains material relevant to the tutorials. There is **no other textbook** for this course.

Textbooks can be purchased from Vicbooks located on the top floor of the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. Books of Reading are distributed from the Student Notes Shop on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop the day after placing an order online.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays); 10.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturdays. Phone: 463 5515

Recommended Reading: (*list*)

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.

A fuller bibliography will be made available through Blackboard.

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 students' contribution to the tutorials, during which each student will be expected to engage with the main themes and take part in their discussion.

- (a) **In-class contribution** worth **10%** of the final grade.
- (b) **Two Essays** (2,000-2,500 words each) **each** worth **30%**:
 - a. **Essay One** is due on **Friday 10 April, 12noon.**
 - b. **Essay Two** is due on **Friday 29 May, 12noon.**
- (c) **Terms Test**, worth 30% of the final grade. The test will take place in the last lecture slot, on **Wednesday 3 June, 15.10-16.00pm, HM104.**

Return of assignments (*this statement needs discussion and work*)

Assignments will be returned in the first tutorial following the deadline or during office hours.

Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays – a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Work that is more than 8 days late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

Mandatory course requirements

To pass the course each student must:

1. Attendance in **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)
 3. 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

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 19 June 2009** 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 19 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).

Statement on legibility:

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General university policies and statutes

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* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

1. **2 March** Introduction to the Course (Dr Hill and Dr Lichtner)
2. **4 March** Making Italy and Making Italians: 1861-1918 (Dr Lichtner)
3. **9 March** Fascism I: Origins and Rise of the Movement (Dr Lichtner)
4. **11 March** Italian Culture Under Fascism (Dr Hill)
5. **16 March** Fascism II: Life and Fall of the Regime (Dr Lichtner)
6. **18 March** War and Literature: Amato, Pavese and Levi (Dr Hill)
7. **23 March** Civil War, National Unity: Italy, 1943-'48 (Dr Lichtner)
8. **25 March** New Approaches to Reality: Italian Neo-Realism (Dr Hill)
9. **30 March** USA-DC-Vatican: The Status Quo of the 1950s (Dr Lichtner)
10. **1 April** Obsession with Unreality: *La Dolce Vita* (Dr Hill)
11. **6 April** The Economic Miracle: 1958-1963 (Dr Lichtner)
12. **8 April** The Americanization of Italian Culture (Dr Hill)

10 April: Essay #1 due, 5pm

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

13. **27 April** 1968 (Dr Lichtner)
14. **29 April** Pasolini (Dr Hill)
15. **4 May** A modern society? Italy in the 1970s (Dr Lichtner)
16. **6 May** Italian feminism: Franca Rame (Dr Hill)
17. **11 May** Democracy Under Threat (Dr Lichtner)
18. **13 May** Counter-Culture: Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Dr Hill)
19. **18 May** The End of the First Republic (Dr Lichtner)

20. 20 *May* Political Comedy After the Cold War: Nanni Moretti

21. 25 *May* A Second Republic? The Rise and Fall (and Rise?) of Silvio Berlusconi (Dr Lichtner)

22. 27 *May* Conclusion: Continuity and Change (Dr Lichtner)

29 MAY: Essay #2 due, 5pm

23. 1 **June** Queen's Birthday: NO LECTURE

24. 3 *June* **In-Class Test**

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

Discussion of Readings:

The format of the discussion will be flexible. However, each week at least one student will be expected to answer a specific question agreed beforehand. All students will be required to familiarise themselves with the prescribed readings and discussion will focus on the main arguments and theoretical issues raised in those.

Week 1 (week beginning 2 March) **No tutorial**

Week 2 (week beginning 9 March) **Introduction to Italian History**

Jonathan Dunnage, *Twentieth-Century Italy: a social history*, London, 2002, pp.4-37.

Week 3 (week beginning 16 March) **Fascism I**

Victoria de Grazia, *How fascism ruled women*, Berkeley, 1992, pp. 41-76.

Stanislao G. Pugliese (ed.), *Fascism, anti-fascism and the resistance in Italy: 1919 to the present*, Oxford, 2004, pp.85-91, 97-101, 131-4, 146-7.

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

Week 4 (week beginning 23 March) **Fascism II**

Stanislao G. Pugliese (ed.), *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.

Alessandro Visani, 'Italian reactions to the racial laws of 1938 as seen through the classified files of the Ministry of Popular culture', *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, Vol. 11, no. 2, 2005, pp. 171-187

Renato Amato, *The Full Circle of the Travelling Cuckoo*, Christchurch, 1967, pp. 26-36.

Primo Levi, 'The Canto of Ulysses' (trans. Stuart Woolf), New York, 1986 (first published 1959), pp. 115-21.

Week 5 (week beginning 30 March) **Transition to Democracy**

Ruth Ben-Ghiat, 'Unmaking the fascist man: masculinity, film and the transition from dictatorship', *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, Vol. 10, no. 3, 2005, pp. 336-365

Paolo Pezzino, 'The Italian resistance between history and memory', *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, Vol. 10, no. 4, 2005, pp. 396-412.

Week 6 (week beginning 6 April) **No Tutorial. Individual Study Week: Essay #1 due on Friday 10 April**

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK (2 weeks)

Week 7 (week beginning 27 April) The economic miracle

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

John Foot, 'Mass cultures and the working class in Milan', *Social History*, Vol. 24, no. 2, May 1999, pp. 134-157.

Week 8 (week beginning 4 May) 1968

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, 'The PCI to the Young!!' in *Heretical Empiricism*, Louise K. Barnett (ed.), Bloomington, Ill., 1988, pp. 150-158.

Week 9 (week beginning 11 May) Italian society in the 1970s

Luisa Passerini, 'The interpretation of democracy in the Italian women's movement of the 1970s and 1980s', *Women's Studies Int. Forum*, Vol. 17, 2/3, pp. 235-239

Wendy Pojmann, 'Emancipation or Liberation? Women's Associations and the Italian Movement', *Historian*, Vol. 67, no. 1, 2005, pp. 73-96

Week 10 (week beginning 18 May) Democracy under threat

Franco Ferraresi, 'The Strategy of tension: A Case Study', *Threats to democracy: The Radical Right in Italy after the War*, Princeton, 1996, pp. 84-115.

John Foot, 'Truth, Memory and justice in Milan', *History Today*, Vol. 50, no. 3, March 2000, pp. 15-17

Dario Fo, *Plays: One*, London, 1994, pp. 207-11, 145-56.

Week 11 (week beginning 25 May) No tutorial. Individual study week: essay #2 due Friday

Week 12 (week beginning 28 May) No Tutorial