



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HISTORY PROGRAMME

HIST 238: FROM FACISM TO FORZA ITALIA: A CULTURAL HISTORY OF ITALY, 1922-2000

TRIMESTER 1 2013

4 March – 3 July 2013

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 4 March to 7 June 2013

Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013

Mid-trimester break: 22–28 April 2013

Study week: 10–14 June 2013

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawlsrefunds

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Giacomo Lichtner
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Office hours: Weds, Thurs, 11.00 – 12.00

Class times and locations

Can be found on the Victoria website at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/timetables/>

It is advisable to check the above for any changes to the timetable programme.

Lecture Time: Weds, Thurs 10.00 – 10.50 am

Lecture Venue: Hunter (HU) LT323

Tutorial:

For tutorial times and venue see the website below

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/timetables/>

Teaching/learning summary

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, Old Kirk 405. 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 Dr Giacomo Lichtner.

Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the HIST 238 Blackboard site.

Course prescription

HIST 238 examines, along chronological lines, the history of Italy from the rise of Fascism until the end of the "First Republic" and the rise of media mogul Silvio Berlusconi's "Forza Italia party", dedicating particular attention to the history of popular culture, including film, literature, popular song and television. Students will employ these sources to analyse the role of popular culture in central issues such as ideological struggles, the development of a coherent state and national identity, the representation and interpretation of the nation's past.

Course content

HIST 238 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 detail 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; women's changing role in society; the relationship between popular culture and political power. This year, the course will pay specific attention to the issue of memory and the political uses of history. 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 passing HIST238 should be able to:

1. Assess and analyse relevant sources, including historiography and alternative material,
2. Critically and independently engage with sources, both secondary and primary (in their English translation)
3. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the key concepts in Italian history
4. Place these specific issues within a wider European and global context
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical context of Italian popular culture and assess its role in the development of 20th C. Italy
6. Extend their research and bibliographical skills
7. Enhance their communication skills in written and oral form

Graduate attributes

As with all History courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific graduate attributes. For more details please consult our website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/hist-overview#grad-attributes>

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to HIST 238 throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures, and tutorials, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Readings

Set texts:

HIST 238 will adopt an electronic Book of Readings, accessible through VUW Library. Details will be released in the first class. Students of HIST 238 are required to access each week the electronic HIST 238 Book of Readings for the relevant sources, as well as examining any other documents as directed in class.

Students may also find it useful to familiarise themselves with the following works:

- Richard J. B. Bosworth, *Mussolini's Italy : life under the dictatorship, 1915-1945* (New York: Penguin, 2006)
- 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)
- John Foot, *Italy's Divided Memory* (New York: Palgrave, 2009)
- 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.

1. In-class contribution worth 10% of the final grade.

Each student will be asked to assume responsibility for a given topic, prepare on set questions and engage the class with discussion points. This part of the assessment package is designed to encourage class contribution and ensure that your oral communication skills are developed alongside your written ones. This is a space to give you the confidence to put forward your ideas and consider them in the light of your peers' responses.

In assessing your work, the marker will be looking for the following:

- A strong grasp of the topic and the relevant sources. The ability to answer questions.
- Inquisitiveness and intellectual curiosity. An informed personal opinion and the ability to go beyond the week's readings.
- Fluent communication skills: the clear exposition of your argument.
- Respect for the opinions of others.

2. Two Essays (2,000-2,500 words each) each worth 30%:

Essay One is due on Monday 15 April, 5pm.

Essay Two is due on Friday 17 May, 5pm.

The essays test your ability to select, understand and organise relevant secondary literature, deal with complex historical issues and submit an accomplished finished package. In order to assess your grasp of the interdisciplinary nature of this course, you will be required to choose one essay question from a list of titles dealing specifically with Italian cultural history titles, and the other from a list of political, economic and social history topics. A list of topics follows at the end of this document.

In assessing your essay, the marker will be looking for the following:

- A coherent and well-developed argument, expressed consistently through the essay. Does the essay answer the title question?
- A fluent, clear and articulate prose; the clear expression of complex ideas
- A coherent structure, backed by consistent and rational paragraphing
- A critical engagement with the secondary literature
- Comprehensive referencing: appropriate footnoting and an appropriate bibliography.

3. End of term Test, worth 30% of the final grade. The test will take place in the last lecture slot, on Thursday 6 June, 10.00-10.50, HU323

The test is designed to show evidence of an acquired overall grasp of the course content and its theoretical framework, test the students' overall understanding of the topic and their ability to think laterally and critically.

In assessing your test, the marker will be looking for the following:

- The ability to think laterally and make links between different yet related topics
- The ability to think critically, using your knowledge to devise a personal answer to a set question
- The ability to think quickly and write a coherent and concise answer in a given time
- The ability to draw examples from a variety of sources, including cultural history sources, and employ them as evidence in the exposition of your argument
- To give you a chance to prove these skills, the test will be in essay form, asking you to answer broad thematic questions.

Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of assignments – **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 10 weekdays late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but may not be marked. 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 gain a pass in this course each student must:

- Submit the essays and assignments, on or by the specified dates and sit the test (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend 7 of 10 tutorials.

Submission of work

All written work must be submitted in hard copy to the History Programme office with History Programme cover sheet attached.

Return of marked course work

Essays and tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the Office, Room 405, Old Kirk Building between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

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>

Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how

enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic.