

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**

**ITALIAN PROGRAMME
ITAL 235: FROM FASCISM TO FORZA ITALIA:
A CULTURAL HISTORY OF ITALY**

TRIMESTER 1 2013
4 March to 3 July 2013

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

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

Examination/Assessment Period: 14 June to 3 July 2013

Please note students should be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Names and contact details

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and Lecturer:**

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The Course Coordinator for ITAL 235 is Dr Sarah (Sally) Hill (Italian Programme). The lecturers for ITAL 235 are Dr Sally Hill and Dr Giacomo Lichtner (History Programme). They are available for student consultation at the times indicated on their office doors.

Class times and locations

Lectures

Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00am – 10.50am in HU (Hunter) LT323

Discussion class/Tutorial

Wednesdays from 12noon-12.50pm in KK (Kirk) 202

Please note that Tutorial/Seminar classes start in the first week of the trimester with a course-specific library tutorial.

Film screenings

Films will be screened on Thursdays from 4.10-6pm in VZ (Von Zedlitz) 011 in weeks 2, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10. See the section on film availability and screenings below.

Please note that cellular phones and pagers should be switched off for the duration of all classes and screenings. Social media (eg. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and websites not related to the course may not be used during class.

Teaching/learning summary

This course is delivered through two lectures and one tutorial per week. Students are also expected to see the six films assigned at the scheduled screenings (Thursdays, 4.10-6pm, VZ 011) or in their own time. The lectures will provide students with an overview of twentieth-century Italian history and culture by covering a wide range of cultural products, from historiography to literary works, from films to comics, television programmes and music. The tutorials will focus on a more detailed analysis of the films and texts in the original language, and on developing discussion skills. The tutorials require students' active participation in group discussion (in class and online) and discussion leadership.

Communication of additional information

The Italian noticeboard is in the corridor outside the rooms vZ503 and vZ504. Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students either via class, noticeboards, Blackboard, or email. For help with Blackboard, go to http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Blackboard_student_help

Course prescription

This course introduces students to 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, paying particular attention to the history of popular culture, including film, literature, popular song and television.

Course content

ITAL 235 is a first trimester 20-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. This year, the course will focus on the issue of memory and political and cultural 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

ITAL 235 is taught in conjunction with HIST 238, a course offered by the History Programme and co-ordinated by Dr Giacomo Lichtner. The two courses were designed together to offer a new approach to the study of Italian culture and history. This interdisciplinary approach is designed to help students assess critically 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 key aspects of Italian society, such as the practice of politics, the role of the Catholic Church, the structure and importance of the family unit, gender roles, regionalism and migration.

Students will be expected to become familiar with the main concepts of Italian culture, history, politics and society, and will be asked to employ cultural sources – including film, literature and photography – alongside historical and historiographical sources. This will allow them to critically engage with the role of culture in key issues of modern Italian history such as the development of a coherent and inclusive national identity, and to develop their knowledge of Italian literary, cinematic and popular culture. In order to extend their ability to understand a variety of Italian texts (e.g. fiction, poetry, theatre, music and cinema), ITAL 235 students are required to view an Italian film each week and to read primary texts in Italian. The ITAL 235 discussion class/tutorial is designed to support students with the Italian-language material covered as well as to discuss in depth the themes of the course and develop critical thinking and oral communication skills.

At the successful completion of ITAL 235, students will have obtained a good knowledge and understanding of contemporary Italian culture and society and their historical context in the period between 1922 and 2001, and be able to assess the role played by culture and counter-culture in the development of the nation.

Students passing ITAL 235 should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of key aspects of contemporary Italian culture and its historical context;
2. Analyse material covered in the course from a variety of critical perspectives;
3. Critically and independently select, analyse and organise relevant information from primary and secondary sources, in both Italian and English, using proper referencing;
4. Express themselves critically (both orally and in writing) about the texts studied in the course;
5. Discuss the relevance of particular cultural and historical texts;
6. Effectively communicate information and arguments related to the contents of the course in both oral and written form.

Expected workload

The University Assessment Handbook 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 one trimester, 20-point course should work on average 13 hours per week, including the 3 contact hours – i.e., in the case of ITAL235, 10 hours of private study outside class time.

Readings

Essential texts: Course Readings will be provided via Blackboard. Students can print them for use in class or bring them with them on a laptop or other device. Details will be provided in the first class. Students of ITAL 235 are required to access each week the electronic readings, as well as examining any other texts, films, recordings or images as directed in class.

Those wanting a clear, basic introduction to Italian history may find the following book useful:

Duggan, Christopher. *A Concise History of Italy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994.

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

Baranski, Zygmunt G. and Rebecca J West, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Italian Culture*. Cambridge, U.K: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Bondanella, Peter. *Italian Cinema: From Neorealism to the Present*. New expanded ed. New York: Continuum, 1990.

Bosworth, Richard J. B. *Mussolini's Italy: Life Under the Dictatorship, 1915-1945*. New York: Penguin, 2006.

Forgacs, David and Robert Lumley, eds. *Italian Cultural Studies: An Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Ginsborg, Paul. *A History of Contemporary Italy: Society and Politics, 1943-1988*. London: Penguin, 1988.

———. *Italy and its Discontents: Family, Civil Society, State 1980-2001*. London: Allen Lane, 2001.

Clark, Martin. *Modern Italy, 1871-1995*. Second Edition. Harlow: Pearson Education Ltd., 1996.

Foot, John. *Italy's Divided Memory*. New York: Palgrave, 2009.

A fuller bibliography will also be made available through Blackboard.

Assessment requirements

Assessment for the course relates to the learning objectives outlined above and aims to establish that students have gained a good overall understanding of twentieth-century Italian cultural history, with a particular focus on the interaction of culture, politics and history. ITAL 235 is 100% internally assessed, as follows:

1. **Discussion class/Tutorial contributions:** discussion leading + discussion responses, worth 5% each
2. **Two 1500-word essays**, worth 30% each, due by 4pm on 15 April and 17 May
3. **1 final test** designed to assess your ability to discuss critically, analyse and illustrate with examples the broader themes analysed in the course (worth 30%)

1. Discussion class/Tutorial contributions:

The discussion classes (tutorials) are designed to help you deepen your understanding of the texts and films we are studying and of their historical context, and to develop your critical thinking skills in a space where you can gain confidence in putting forward your ideas and considering them in the light of your peers' responses. It is also designed to encourage class contribution and ensure that your oral communication skills are developed alongside your written ones. Working in pairs, students will be asked to assume responsibility for a given topic, post a set of questions based on the readings and/or film for that week to blackboard by the Friday prior to the discussion, and engage the class with discussion points.

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

- A strong grasp of the topic and the relevant sources.
- Inquisitiveness and intellectual curiosity.
- The ability to pose interesting questions and elicit an engaging and fruitful discussion, drawing out responses and development of major points, encouraging debate and maintaining the focus of the discussion.
- 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 others' opinions.

Please sign up to lead a discussion on the sign-up sheet wiki under ITAL 235 in Course Resources on Blackboard by Monday 11 March. Discussion leadership is worth 5% of your final mark and is a mandatory requirement for passing 235. In addition, all students will be required to post brief responses to the discussion questions on Blackboard prior to the class (mandatory course requirements; worth 5% of final mark). Further details will be provided in the first class.

2. Essays:

The essays test your ability to select, understand and organise relevant secondary literature, deal with complex historical and cultural issues and submit a polished piece of writing with a clear argument. Essay topics will be handed out in tutorial/discussion classes and posted on Blackboard.

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 question chosen?
- A fluent, clear and articulate prose; the clear expression of complex ideas
- A coherent structure, with consistent and rational paragraphing
- Effective use of primary sources and critical engagement with the secondary literature
- Comprehensive referencing: appropriate footnoting and an appropriate bibliography.

3. Final Test:

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.

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

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 Coordinator 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.

Please note that no work for assessment will be accepted after 21 June.

Mandatory course requirements

In order to complete ITAL235, students are required to do the following, unless specific exemptions have been agreed to:

- I. submit the two written essays on or by the due dates (15 April and 17 May);
- II. post questions and lead a discussion class on a date agreed with the lecturer, post responses to the questions at least 24 hours before class, and participate in class discussion;
- III. sit the final written test;
- IV. attend at least 80% of the tutorial/discussion classes

Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, 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. Class reps will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how your courses are going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the [VUWSA website](#).

Presentation of essays and return of marked work

Tidy presentation of essays is essential. Work must be typed or neatly handwritten and double-spaced. 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 the SLC Office, von Zedlitz (vZ) 610. Essays are to be handed in to the Italian assignment slot located to the left of the SLC Office. Corrected work will be handed out in class. If you do not collect work in class, you will be able to collect it from SLC Office. All work not collected will be destroyed 3 months after the date of the final written test.

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.

Tests and impairments

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 Coordinator 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 Coordinator, if necessary through an 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.

Language Learning Centre (LLC)

The Language Learning Centre (LLC) is the Library's technology-rich, multimedia centre supporting language learning.

At the LLC you can practise and extend your language learning. You can:

- Find materials to support your language studies, including dictionaries, textbooks and graded readers.
- Study independently using language learning software, audio material and DVDs.
- Find a welcoming environment with services and events, and onsite assistance and support for languages
- Become a Language Buddy or find a conversation group.

Visit the LLC on Level 0, von Zedlitz Building and take a look at the website www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/

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/avcacademic.

Course Programme

Lecture Programme

Lecture	Date	Topic	Tests/Assessments
1.	6 March	Introduction to the Course: Recurrent Themes in Contemporary Italian history (Dr Hill and Dr Lichtner)	
2.	7 March	Making Italy and Making Italians: 1861-1918 (Dr Lichtner)	
3.	13 March	Fascism and Imperialism (Dr Lichtner)	
4.	14 March	Italian Culture Under Fascism (Dr Hill)	
5.	20 March	The Cult of Mussolini and Its Postwar Legacy (Dr Lichtner)	
6.	21 March	Civil War, National Unity: Italy, 1943-'48 (Dr Lichtner)	
7.	27 March	War and Literature: Amato, Pavese and Levi (Dr Hill)	
EASTER BREAK [28 MARCH – 3 APRIL]			
8.	4 April	New Approaches to Reality: Italian Neo-Realism (Dr Hill)	
9.	10 April	Italy in the '50s and the 'Economic Miracle' (Dr Lichtner)	
10.	11 April	Remembering Fascism in 1950s' Cinema (Dr Lichtner)	15 April: Essay 1 due 4pm
11.	17 April	The Americanization of Italian Culture (Dr Hill)	
12.	18 April	Obsession with Unreality: <i>La Dolce Vita</i> (Dr Hill)	
MID-TRIMESTER BREAK [22 - 28 APRIL]			
13.	1 May	1968 (Dr Lichtner)	
14.	2 May	Diagnosing Cultural Crisis: Pier Paolo Pasolini (Dr Hill)	
15.	8 May	A modern society? Italy in the 1970s (Dr Lichtner)	
16.	9 May	Italian Feminism(s) (Dr Hill)	
17.	15 May	Resistance and Revolution: Bernardo Bertolucci and the sessantottini (Dr Lichtner)	
18.	16 May	1970s Society and Terrorism (Dr Lichtner)	17 May: Essay 2 due 4 pm
19.	22 May	Counter-Culture: Dario Fo's <i>Accidental Death of an Anarchist</i> (Dr Hill)	
20.	13 May	Remembering the 1970s: <i>Buongiorno Notte</i> (Dr Hill)	
21.	29 May	The 1980s: From the Corruption Scandals to the Rise of Berlusconi (Dr Lichtner)	
22.	30 May	Conclusion: Continuity and Change (Dr Hill)	
23.	5 June	No class: Study period	
23.	6 June	In-Class Test	<u>Final Written Test</u>

Tutorial/Discussion Class Programme

You must sign up to post questions and lead a discussion class (worth 5% of final mark) by Monday 11 March on the ITAL235 sign up wiki on Blackboard. In weeks when you are not leading the discussion, you must submit brief responses to the posted questions. These must be posted to the Blackboard discussion board at least 24 hours before the scheduled class discussion (i.e. by midday on the Tuesday before discussion). Your responses and in-class participation will be worth 5% of your final mark.

Discussion of Readings/Screenings

Each week from week 2 on two members of class will be expected to lead a discussion (in English or Italian) on one of the Italian texts or films. Basing themselves on the readings (and film, where applicable) they will prepare a series of discussion questions, which will be circulated to all class members the week before class via Blackboard. Other members of class will be expected to post a response by the day before class (at the latest) and come to class prepared to discuss the questions. There will also be time for questions related to the lectures. Students are encouraged to read as much in Italian as possible.

Students will be required to familiarise themselves with all the prescribed readings (available for download from Blackboard), but discussion will focus specifically on the Italian texts and/or films.

Discussion Class/Tutorial Dates and Topics

Week	Date	Topic
1.	6 March	Meeting with Italian librarian Tony Quinn (KK218)
2.	13 March	Il Risorgimento
3.	20 March	Blasetti's <i>1860</i> and Culture under Fascism
4.	27 March	Literature and War
5.	10 April	Neorealism: <i>Roma città aperta</i>
6.	17 April	The 1950s: The Economic Miracle and Cinematic Memories of Fascism
7.	1 May	Fellini and <i>La dolce vita</i>
8.	8 May	1968 and Pier Paolo Pasolini's <i>Il PCI ai giovani</i>
9.	15 May	Italian Feminism(s). Franca Rame's <i>Lo stupro</i> and Alina Marazzi's <i>Vogliamo anche le rose</i>
10.	22 May	Bernardo Bertolucci and <i>Il conformista</i>
11.	29 May	Dario Fo's <i>Morte accidentale di un anarchico</i> / Revision
12.		NO DISCUSSION CLASS/TUTORIAL

FILM AVAILABILITY AND SCREENINGS

All films studied in this course will be available for viewing in the Victoria University Central Library. Please check the library catalogue, as some are also available in the Language Learning Centre (VZ level 0). Screenings of the films are scheduled for the following dates on Thursdays 4.10-6pm in VZ 011.

Week	Date	Director	Film
Week 2	14 March	Alessandro Blasetti	<i>1860</i> (1934)
Week 4	28 March	Roberto Rossellini	<i>Roma città aperta</i> (1945)
Week 5	11 April	Luchino Visconti	<i>Rocco e i suoi fratelli</i> (1960)
Week 6	18 April	Federico Fellini	<i>La dolce vita</i> (1960)
Week 7	9 May	Alina Marazzi	<i>Vogliamo anche le rose</i> (2007)
Week 9	16 May	Bernardo Bertolucci	<i>Il conformista</i> (1970)
Week 10	23 May	A. Horrocks & G. Richards	Dario Fo's <i>Accidental Death of an Anarchist</i> (1983)