

**History 318.01-10A**  
**Italy: from Napoleon to Berlusconi 1800 to 2006**

University of Pennsylvania  
Spring Semester 2010  
Tuesday and Thursday 12.00-1.30

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The seminar looks at the evolution of modern Italy from the Napoleonic Era through the unification of the Kingdom in 1861, through its crisis in the First World War and the subsequent struggle for control of the new mass society. It looks at the emergence of the first fascist regime and the first modern dictatorship under Benito Mussolini; the rise and consolidation of that dictatorship, its descent into anti-semitism, defeat in war and the civil war of 1943-45, which followed that defeat. Out of that crisis a new prosperous republic has grown. It traces that story to the latest stage, the curious media dictatorship of Silvio Berlusconi. Italian history contains in its history all the problems of modern Europe and some unique to it. Its culture through the pizza, the pasta and the fine consumer products has become world-wide, and its children live in large numbers in every major city in the world.

One of the glories of modern Italian history has been the exceptional quality of its literature. Great fiction can form an alternative approach with which to gain insights into Italian history. Eight works of literature have been put on a list as required reading. Each student will be expected to choose one work and write a book review of it. All of them are in English translation, but, of course, if you can read them in Italian, you will have more fun.

**Course requirements:**

Each student is required to write **a book review (not more than 1200 words in length)** drawn from the list below and to take a final examination which will be composed of a number of identification questions and an essay question.

**Grade distribution:**

book review	40%
final exam	60%

**Course Textbook**

Spencer Di Scala, *Italy from Revolution to Republic: 1700 to the Present* Westview Press; 3rd edition (February, 2004) **ISBN:** 0813341767

**Secondary Reading:**

Lucy Riall, *The Italian Risorgimento : State, Society and National Unification* Palgrave Macmillan (January 6, 2009) **ISBN-13:** 978-0230216709

Jonathan Steinberg, *All or Nothing: the Axis and the Holocaust 1941-43* 2nd ed. Routledge Paperback December 2002 **ISBN-13:** 978-0415290692

**Required Literature (students to chose ONE from the list):**

Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa , *The Leopard*, Pantheon Books; ISBN: 0679731210

Alberto Moravia, *The Conformist*, Steerforth Press ISBN: 1883642655

Carlo Levi, *Christ stopped at Eboli*, Noonday Press, ISBN: 037 4503 168

Giorgio Bassani, *The Garden of the Finzi Continis*, Harcourt Brace, ISBN: 0 1563 45706

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, Collier Books ISBN: 06848 26801

The textbook, secondary reading books and books for review will be available at the **Penn Book Center** 130 S. 34th Street Philadelphia, PA 19104 Tel: 215-222-7600 for purchase or at the Rosengarten Reserve Desk at the Van Pelt Library, other readings for the course will be posted on the **Blackboard** site for the course.

**Week 1. January 14, 2010. Introduction to Italian History**

**Week 2. January 19 and 21. From the French Revolution to the Restoration**

What was the French Revolution, how and why did it set parameters for subsequent development? How successful were attempts to turn the clock back to the world before 1789. Austria as occupying power.

Spencer Di Scala, *Italy*, pp. 3-65

Robert Gildea, *Barricades and Borders, Europe 1800-1914* Ch. 2 “Napoleonic Europe” pp. 35-56, Ch3. Metternich’s Europe” 57-82 (online)

**Week. 3 January 26 -28. "The Myth of the Italian people"**

Why the nationalist movement in Italy was bound to end in disappointment and disillusion and the role of language and culture in the emergence of national identity.

Spencer Di Scala, *Italy*, pp. 69-127

Lucy Riall, *The Italian Risorgimento*, pp 1-49 (online)

Jonathan Steinberg, “The Historian and the *Questione della Lingua*” in Peter Burke and Roy Porter, *The Social History of Language* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987) pp. 198-208 (online)

**Week 4 February 2 - 4 . "Italy's peculiar capitalism"**

The Italian case examined as an example of 'third world' economic development and the general problems associated with rapid and uneven economic growth.

Lucy Riall, *The Risorgimento*, pp 50-62 (online)

R.A. Webster, *Industrial Imperialism in Italy, 1908-1915* (Berkeley, CA,: University of California Press, 1975) pp 1-75 (online)

Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective*, (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1962) Ch 1, Ch 2, Ch 5. pp 5-51, pp 90-118 (online)

**Week 5 February 9 - 11. "The South: the mezzogiorno and the mafia"**

The Italian south and the mafia as socio-cultural obstacles to social and economic modernisation. The region of Calabria will serve as a case study.

Spencer Di Scala, *Italy*, pp. 151-191

Pino Arlacchi, *Mafia, Peasants and Great Estates. Society in traditional Calabria* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983) pp. 1-9 and pp 67-121 (online)

John A. Davis, "The South, the Risorgimento and the Origins of the Southern Problem" in J.A. Davis (ed.) *Gramsci and Italy's Passive Revolution* (New York, Barnes and Noble, 1979) pp. 67-103 (online)

Jonathan Steinberg, "Fascism in the Italian South: The Case of Calabria" in David Forgacs, *Rethinking Italian Fascism* (London: Lawrence Wishart, 1986) pp 83-110 (online)

**Week 6. February 16 - 18. "The modern state - Italian style"**

How and why did the bureaucratic structures of the Piedmontese state, when applied to the national scene, degenerate so quickly and produce such a welter of corruption? Why has Italy always had difficulty in controlling the operations of the state?

Spencer Di Scala, *Italy*, pp. 131-150 A.L. Lowell, *Governments and Parties in Continental Europe*, Vol. 1, pp 146-201 (online)

**Week 7. February 23 - 25. The First World War"**

A tiny and unrepresentative group of extreme nationalists succeeded in catapulting Italy into the first world war for which the country was unprepared. The movement acted as the precursor to the fascist seizure of power. How was it possible? How important was the contemporary cult of the irrational?

Spencer Di Scala, *Italy*, pp. 211-229

Christopher Seton-Watson, *Italy from Liberalism to Fascism* pp 413-497 (online)

**Week 8. March 2 - 4. The Rise of Fascism and the emergence of Mussolini**

The catastrophic consequences of the war led the victorious Italian kingdom to see its victory as a form of defeat, and they were not wrong to do so. The huge growth of the socialist party, the rise of communism and social unrest, land seizures by peasants etc and their impact on society.

Spencer Di Scala, *Italy*, pp. 231-277

Christopher Seton-Watson, *Italy from Liberalism to Fascism*, pp 505-560 (online)  
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Richard Bosworth, *Mussolini* pp. 123-169 (online)

Jonathan Steinberg, *All or Nothing*, pp 181-205

Giulia Barrera, "The Construction of Racial Hierarchies in Colonial Eritrea. The Liberal and Early Fascist Period: in Patrizia Palumbo, *A Place in the Sun: Africa in Italian Colonial Culture from Post-Unification to the Present*. (Berkeley/ Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2003) pp.81-115 (online)

**BOOK REVIEW DUE: THURSDAY MARCH 4, 12 NOON**

**SPRING BREAK: March 5 - 14**

**Week 9. March 16 – 18 "Church, State and Fascism"**

Why was Mussolini able to resolve, in the Lateran Pacts of 1929, the conflict between church and state, which Cavour and the liberals had not been able to do? How did the church contribute to the rise of fascism? The establishment of the fascist regime.

A.L. Lowell, *Governments and Parties in Continental Europe* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1896), Vol. 1, "Italy", pp. 178- 188 (online)  
Jonathan Steinberg, "'The Poor in Christ: peasants, priests and politics in the Cosenza general strike, November, 1920", in *History, Society and the Churches. Essays in honour of Owen Chadwick* ed. Derek Beales and Geoffrey Best (Cambridge University Press, 1985) (online)  
Christopher Seton-Watson, *Italy from Liberalism to Fascism* (London: Methuen & Co., 1967) pp. 53-62 (online)  
Richard Bosworth, *Mussolini* pp. 217-240 (online)  
John Pollard, *Money and the Rise of the Modern Papacy: Financing the Vatican 1850-1950* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005) pp. 127-149 (online)

### **Week 10. March 23 -25 Antonio Gramsci, Italian Communism and Marxist Theory**

Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937) spent eleven years in prison where he composed the Prison Notebooks, one of the most remarkable achievement of the human spirit and critical in the history of post-war Italian communism.

Antonio Gramsci, *Further Selections from the Prison Notebooks*, ed. and trs. By Derek Boothman, (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Press, 1995[pp 59- 76] (online)  
David Forgacs, "The Left and Fascism. Problems of Definition. In *Rethinking Italian Fascism* (London: Lawrence Wishart, 1986) pp 83-110 (online)  
John M. Cammett, *Antonio Gramsci and the Origins of Italian Communism* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1967) 3-62 (online)  
Paul Ginsborg, "Gramsci and the era of bourgeo-ois revolution in Italy" in John A. Davis, *Gramsci and Italy's Passive Revolution*, pp 31-67(online)

### **Week 11. March 30 - April 1. "From 'Eight Million Bayonettes' to the Holocaust**

The fiasco of Italian military enterprises in the Second World War. Antisemitism and the *leggi razziali*, defeat, armistice and the *guerra civile* (1943-45). The myth of the *resistenza*

Spencer Di Scala, *Italy*, pp 279-298.  
Richard Bosworth, *Mussolini* pp. 335 – 409 (online)  
Jonathan Steinberg, *All or Nothing*, pp 85-164 and 220-244

### **Week 12. April 6 - 8 "Italy in the Post-War World: The Economic Miracle and the Political Stagnation**

The uncertain foundations of the new republic will be set into the context of the cold war. Continuities in politics and parties and in foreign policy emerge from the failure to carry out the "second risorgimento". The transformation of the Italian economy, flight from the land, urbanisation of the peasantry, and the emergence of the special version of Italian mini-capitalism "distretto industriale" and the "made in Italy" boom.

Spencer Di Scala *Italy* pp 333-349  
Patrick McCarthy, *The Church in post-war Italy* pp 133-152 (online)  
Donald Sassoon, *Contemporary Italy. Politics Economy and Society since 1945* (London: Longman, 1986), pp 89-121 and 165-209(online)

Marzio Barbagli, *Educating for Unemployment. Politics, Labor Markets and the School System in Italy 1859-1973* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1982) pp 212-245 (online)

Giacomo Becattini, "The development of light industry in Tuscany: an interpretation" and Fabio Sforzi, "The Tuscan Model: an interpretation in the light of recent trends" in R. Leonardi and R.Y. Nanetti, *Regional Development in a modern European Economy. The Case of Tuscany*, New York, Pinter Press, 1994) pp. 69-115 (online)

### **Week 13. April 13 - 15. Stalemate, Disintegration and Rebirth?**

The years of political stalemate, the character of the Italian Communist Party, Christian Democracy, "lottizzazione" and the party state. Red brigades and Mafia, violence from left and right. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the collapse of the Italian system: a new beginning or another failed "risorgimento"?

Spencer Di Scala *Italy*, pp 351-372

Patrick McCarthy, *The Crisis of the Italian State*, pp 61-101 (online)

James Walston, *The Mafia and Clientelism. Roads to Rome in post-war Calabria* (New York: Routledge, 1988) pp 40-87 (online)

### **Week 14 April 20 - 22. The Second Republic-Berlusconi's Italy**

Italian politics since 1994 has been dominated by the mini-Mussolini figure of Silvio Berlusconi and the return of fascism as a part of a governing coalition. Has nothing changed?

Spencer Di Scala, pp. 373-397

Paul Ginsborg, *Silvio Berlusconi. Television, Power and Patrimony*, pp 57-183 (online)

**Final Exam: TBA**