



## SYLLABUS

### **MODERN ITALY: HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE**

**Professore: Antonio ZAMPA**

**Contact Hrs: 45**

### **MACERATA, ITALY**

**Scope:** this course serves as a thorough introduction to life and culture in modern Italy. Beginning with the geography of the boot, emphasizing the vast geographical, economic and cultural diversity of the area the course proceeds to the analysis of Napoleon's invasion, particularly in and around Macerata (battles of *Castelfidardo* and *Tolentino*) and the following unification struggles eventually leading to nationalism. The main points concerning *Francesco Crispi* and *Giovanni Giolitti*'s politics are analyzed as well as Italy's peculiar role in the Alliance system in World War I.

The roots of Fascism are recounted and the ideals and the realities of the corporate state are contrasted. World War II dramatic events are revisited by focusing on the main episodes connected with Macerata area (the *Battle of Chienti* and the Concentration Camp of the *Abbey of Fiastra*).

The roles of the Marxist, Socialist, Capitalist and Christian political parties are covered including the nature of post war governments.

The "sixty-eight" phenomenon is analyzed in its sociological and political implications.

In addition traditional themes in Italian literature and cinema related to these particular historical moments the *Church* the *Family*, *Marriage* and *Courtship*, *Aristocracy* etc. will be examined in their evolution in Italian Society throughout the course.

### ***Syllabus***

#### **Section A**

- I. From the Alps to Pantelleria: geographical, historical and cultural diversity in a Mediterranean land.
- II. From Napoleon to the Italian "*Risorgimento*", the Unification and Modern Italy Monarchy.
- III. "La Questione Meridionale" in the novel "The Leopard" by *Tomasi di Lampedusa*.
- IV. Italy in Europe 1870-1919.

This section will be integrated with the vision of the film: "The Leopard".

#### **Section B**

- I. Post War Italy and the rise of Mussolini: the Fascist Era, theory and practice.
- II. Modern Imperialism: Adventures in Lybia, Ethiopia. Albania, Somalia and the Horn.

- III. The antifascism, racial laws and the poor conditions of the south in the novel “Christ stopped at Eboli”, by *Carlo Levi*: The conditions of the Jews in Italy soon before the outbreak of World War II in *Giorgio Bassani*’s “The Garden of the Finzi Contini”
- IV. Italy in World War II.

This section will be integrated with the vision of the two films: 1) “Christ stopped at Eboli”; 2) “Tea with Mussolini”; and by the reading of Italo *Calvino*’s “The Path to the Nest of Spiders”.

### Section C

- I. The Italian governmental system in the post war Era.
- II. Italy and the European Common Market.

This section will be integrated by the vision of the film “Bicycle Thieves” by V. De Sica.

### Section D

- I. A glimpse into contemporary Italian Literature and Cinema: *Calvino*’s “Palomar”, *Federico Fellini*’s “La Strada and “Otto e Mezzo”

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Each absence will result in a dock of one increment from your final grade. If your final grade is a B, for example, and you were absent once, you will receive a B- for the course; if you were absent twice, you will receive a C+ and so on.

**Examinations:** There will be two (2) scheduled examinations in the form of essay questions in this course, a mid semester exam and a final exam

**Grades:** The final course grade will be composed of the following parts:

Class Participation	15%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	50%

**Class procedures:** Classes will consist of formal and informal lectures, and class discussions.

<b><u>Required Texts :</u></b>	Ginsborg Paul	<u>A History of Contemporary Italy</u> Penguin Books 1990
	Clark Martin	<u>Modern Italy</u> Longman Group Ltd.1984
	Di Lampedusa T.	<u>The Leopard</u> Pantheon Books, New York
	Levi Carlo	<u>Christ stopped at Eboli</u> The Noonday Press, New York

**Additional Required Texts** (not more than one for each semester) :

	Pavese Cesare	<u>The House on the Hill</u> Peter Owen Ltd, London
	Calvino Italo	<u>The Path to the Nest of Spiders</u>

The Ecco Press, New York

Calvino Italo

Mr. Palomar

Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich

Giorgio Bassani

The Garden of the Finzi Contini

New American Library, New York

**Reference Texts :**

Pacifici Sergio

A Guide to Contemporary Italian Literature: from  
Futurism to Neorealism

Carbondale, Southern Illinois UP

Hollis Helpert

Fellini: A Life

New York: Paragon 1986.