

SYLLABUS

MODERN ITALY: HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE

Instructor: Prof. Antonio Zampa

Contact Hrs: 45

Language of Instruction: English

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 analysed 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 focussing 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 analysed 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.

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 conditions of the peasants in southern Italy before the outbreak of World War II in **Carlo Levi's "Christ stopped at Eboli"**

IV Italy in World War II.

V The Italian Resistance in Italo Clavino's "The Path to the Nest of Spiders"

This section will be integrated with the vision of two films: 1) "Christ stopped at Eboli"; 2) "The Garden of Finzi Contini".

Section C

I The Italian governmental system in the post war Era.

II Italy and the European Common Market.

Section D

I A glimpse into contemporary Italian Cinema: **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+

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| Evaluation: | Class Participation | 15% |
| | Midterm Exam | 35% |
| | Final Exam | 50% |

Required Texts:

Ginsborg Paul "A History of Contemporary Italy", Penguin Books 1990

Clark Martin "Modern Italy", Longman Group Ltd. 1984

Di Lampedusa T. "The Leopard", Pantheon Books, New York

Giorgio Bassani "The Garden of the Finzi Contini", New American Library, New York

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

Pavese Cesare: "The House on the Hill". Peter Owen Ltd, London

Calvino Italo: "The Path to the Nest of Spiders", The Ecco Press, New York

Calvino Italo: "Mr Palomar", Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich

Levi Carlo "Christ stopped at Eboli", The Noonday Press, New

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.