



## **HIST 331: History of Italy, 1800-2000**

**Instructor:** Prof. Joshua Arthurs

**Location:** Woodburn 101, TR 1:00-2:15

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**Office Hours:** 302D Woodburn Hall, TR 2:15-3:15

### **Course Description:**

This course examines the political, cultural and social history of modern Italy, from the roots of the Risorgimento to the rise of Berlusconi. Topics covered include the challenges of national unification; Fascism and the World Wars; postwar reconstruction and the crises of the first Republic in the 1990s. In addition to studying historical developments, we will be analyzing representations in literature and film.

### **Readings:**

The following required readings are available at the WVU Book Exchange:

- Spencer Di Scala, *Italy: from Revolution to Republic, 1700 to the Present* (Fourth Ed.)
- Giovanni di Lampedusa, *The Leopard*
- Roberto Saviano, *Gomorra: a Personal Journey into the Violent International Empire of Naples' Organized Crime System*
- Ignazio Silone, *Bread and Wine*

### **eCampus:**

The course eCampus page (which you can reach by logging on with your MIX user name and password at [ecampus.wvu.edu](http://ecampus.wvu.edu)) contains important materials including PowerPoint slides from past lectures, discussion questions and assignments, the syllabus, grading schemes, a writing style guide, a list of extra credit films, and useful links.

### **Assignments:**

**Exams (35%):** There are two exams – a midterm (worth 15%) and a final (worth 20%). The exams will include short-answer questions as well as a longer essay responses, based on the textbook and class lectures. If you are aware that you will have a university-approved scheduling conflict, you may provide documentation and arrange to take the exam in advance; however, there are no make-ups after the exam date has passed.

**Reading Response Papers (45%):** There are three response papers to our discussion readings, each of approximately 3-4 pages double-spaced, responding to our readings. The first is worth 10%, while the second is worth 15%, and the third is worth 20%. Prompts will be distributed ahead of time. You must submit all three papers to pass the course, even if your grade is mathematically passing.

All students have the option of submitting one **rewrite** for each of the first two papers. When submitting a rewrite, you must also submit the original version of the paper, with my comments included. I strongly encourage you to consult with me in revising papers. Rewrites will be accepted up to two weeks after the original graded papers are returned.

**Movie Paper (5%):** We will be watching *Vincere*, a highly acclaimed new film on the Fascist period. Students are required to write a response assignment; a prompt will be provided ahead of time.

**Participation and Attendance (15%):** As you will notice on the syllabus, some weeks will be focused on lectures while others are devoted to discussion. During discussion weeks, the class will be divided into two groups to facilitate conversation. Our discussion will be focused on one longer reading (indicated on the syllabus) but will also bring in themes and texts from other sessions. Your contributions for each discussion week are graded and form the core of your participation grade. You must attend the discussion group to which you are assigned.

Attendance counts towards your participation grade. You are expected to attend all class meetings, with a notebook and the readings in hand. Be prepared to discuss the texts and ask questions. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences; however, I understand that illness and problems can arise, so you will be allowed **TWO** “free” misses over the course of the semester. Be judicious about how you use these absences. If you use up your absences early in the semester, I will not be sympathetic when you need to miss class later in the term. Perfect attendance will raise your participation grade, while multiple absences will lower it.

**Extra Credit:** Students may earn up to 5% extra credit by writing an analysis of a film relevant to the themes of the course. A list of approved films is posted on eCampus. The paper should be approximately 3-4 pages long. You may only hand in one extra credit assignment per semester. Extra credit papers will be accepted at any time up to the end of class on Thursday, 12/9.

### **Course Expectations:**

**Assignments:** The papers must be submitted in **HARD COPY** and stapled – not sent via email. They should be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in 12-point font. Late papers will be deducted half a grade for every day of lateness, beginning at the time at which they are due. No extensions will be given.

**Communication:** I will often communicate with the class via your WVU email account (MIX). Please be sure to check it regularly. Email is also the best way to contact me. When emailing,

please be ensure that you are polite and professional; an unpunctuated Blackberry message with no salutation will not be answered. I will work hard to get back to you in a timely manner.

**Courtesy during Class:** It is disruptive to others to arrive late to class or leave early. Please don't do it. If you know that you will have to leave class early, explain the situation to me beforehand and sit near the door so that you can exit as quietly as possible. Please turn off all cell phones, beepers, or any other wireless device that may make noise during class. I will confiscate your device if it rings in class. You may use laptops in class for taking notes, but if you are using it for email, instant-messaging, or any other activity I will ask you to stop using your computer.

**Academic Integrity:** Cheating and plagiarism are serious offences, and can result in penalties ranging from F on an assignment to F for the course and further disciplinary action. I take plagiarism very seriously, as it means that you have willfully stolen the thoughts, ideas, and words of others and treated them as your own. Please cite all of your sources! I reserve the right to use anti-plagiarism software in dubious cases.

**Writing Center:** Writing is one of the most important skills in this course. You are encouraged to use the WVU Writing Center to help improve your papers. More information on the Writing Center's resources can be found via a link on the course eCampus page.

**Statement of Social Justice:** WVU is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

## Schedule

DATE	TOPICS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS & REMINDERS
8/24-8/26	Introduction and Background	Di Scala, xi-xx, 3-20	
8/31-9/2	Revolutionary and Restoration Italy	Di Scala, 21-65	
9/7-9/9	The Risorgimento	Di Scala, 69-121	
9/14-9/16	Discussion	Lampedusa, <i>The Leopard</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 1 meets 9/14</li> <li>• Group 2 meets 9/16</li> </ul>
9/21-9/23	Liberal Italy	Di Scala, 125-162	
9/28-9/30	Giolittian Italy and WW1	Di Scala, 163-217	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading response #1 due 9/28</b></li> </ul>
10/5-10/7	The Rise of Fascism	Di Scala, 219-236	
10/12-10/14	Building the <i>Stato Totalitario</i>	Di Scala, 237-263	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Midterm exam 10/12</b></li> </ul>
10/19-10/21	Everyday life in Fascist Italy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movie viewing – <i>Vincere</i> (details TBA)</li> <li>• <b>Movie response due Friday, 10/22</b></li> </ul>
10/26-10/28	Discussion	Silone, <i>Bread and Wine</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 2 meets 10/26</li> <li>• Group 1 meets 10/28</li> </ul>
11/2-11/4	War and Resistance	Di Scala, 265-282	
11/9-11/11	Cold War Politics and Culture	Di Scala, 285-316	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading response #2 due 11/9</b></li> </ul>
11/16-11/18	“Il Boom” and Postwar Society	Di Scala, 316-352	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No class 11/18 – professor out of town</b></li> </ul>
11/23-11/25	Thanksgiving Recess		
11/30-12/2	Discussion	Saviano, <i>Gomorra</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group 1 meets 11/30</li> <li>• Group 2 meets 12/2</li> </ul>
12/7-12/9	The Crisis of the First Republic	Di Scala, 353-386	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Extra credit papers due by 12/9</b></li> </ul>
12/14-12/17	Exam week		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading response #3 due at noon on 12/14.</b></li> <li>• <b>Final exam on Friday, 12/17, 3-5 PM in Woodburn 101</b></li> </ul>