

Prof. Ruth Ben-Ghiat
V59.0173 /V57.0286
Spring 2012

Office and Office Hours: Casa Italiana, Mezzanine Level, W 10:30-11:30 or by appt
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ITALIAN COLONIALISM

This course examines Italian colonialism from the late 19th century through the end of empire during World War Two, and the postcolonial consequences of Italian occupations. Our sources include travel reportage and fictional writing, documentary and fiction films, and historical works as we explore the meanings of colonialism within Italian history and culture; colonial racial policies and gender identities; and the role of mass and high culture in diffusing imperial ideologies.

Course materials

All course readings are contained in a customized reader, "Italian Colonialism," which can be purchased from Advanced Copy Center on La Guardia between Bleecker and West 3rd Streets (388-1001). The reader is also available on Blackboard. Complete citations for all readings are given on the last page of the syllabus. Please do the readings in the order they are listed.

Course grade

Final seminar paper, 70%, short paper, 10%, class participation, 20%. Seminar papers may be written in either English or Italian and from any disciplinary perspective. Students must meet with me to discuss their paper topics. Class participation is judged by your attention and interventions during the seminar, and your brief presentations.

Schedule of Meetings and Readings

***indicates readings to be divided among students**

Jan 25 Introduction

Feb 1 Histories and Theories

Fuller, *Moderns Abroad*, 23-38

*Verdicchio, "The Preclusion of Postcolonial Discourse in Southern Italy"

*Agnew, "The Myth of Backward Italy in Modern Europe"

Labanca, "Studies and Research on Fascist Colonialism,"

(optional, as background)

Feb 8 Legacies of Defeat: Adwa

Larebo, *The Building of an Empire*, 1-19

Triulzi, "Adwa: From Monument to Document"

Finaldi, "Italy's Scramble for Africa"

Film: *Adwa* (Haile Garama, 1999)

- Feb 15** **Colonialism in the Liberal Period**
 Fuller, *Moderns Abroad*, 39-53
 *Barrera, “The Construction of Racial Hierarchies”
 *Segrè, *The Fourth Shore*, 3-32
 Marinetti, *Mafarka the Futurist/Mafarka il futurista*, chapter 1
- Feb 22** **Contexts: Fascist Italy**
 Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, 123-140
 Pinkus, “Shades of Black in Advertising and Popular Culture”
 Mussolini, “Fascist Imperialism”
- Feb 29** **Libya in the 1920s**
 Ahmida, *The Making of Modern Libya*, 1-9, 135-144
 Atkinson, “Embodied Resistance, Italian Anxieties...”
 Ben-Ghiat, “The Conquest of Libya and the Assault on the Nomadic”
 Film: *Kif tebbi* (Mario Camerini, 1928)
- March 7** **The Occupation of Ethiopia**
 Sbacchi, “Poison Gas and Atrocities in the Italo-Ethiopian War”
 Bekerie, “African Americans and the Italo-Ethiopian War”
 Mussolini, “After the Clash at Ual-Ual” and “Salute to the Legionaires of East Africa”
- March 14** **Spring Break**
- March 21** **Race and Governance: the Case of Ethiopia**
 Fuller, *Moderns Abroad*, 197-213
 Barrera, “Mussolini’s Colonial Race Laws”
 Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*, 45-76
- March 28** **Men and Women in the Colonies**
 Matard-Bonucci, “Italian Fascism’s Ethiopian Conquest...”
 Pickering-Iazzi, “Mass-Mediated Fantasies” 197-212 only
 Tobino, *Il deserto della Libia/The Deserts of Libya*, 155-169, 206-220
- April 4** **Colonial Travel Writing**
 Pratt, “Imperial Eyes,” introduction
 Lombardi-Diop, “Pioneering Female Modernity”
 Polezzi, “Aristocrats, Geographers, Reporters...”
 *Denti di Pirjano, *A Cure for Serpents*, chapters 2,5,7
- April 11** **Student Presentations**
- April 18** **The End of Empire**
 Segre, *Fourth Shore*, 161-177

Tobino, *The Deserts of Libya*, 224-236, 290-301

- April 25** **Legacies of Colonialism: Libya**
Jerary, "Damages caused by the Italian Fascist Colonization of Libya"
Other reading TBA
- May 2** **Legacies of Colonialism: Italy**
Del Boca, "Myths, Suppressions and Denials"
Von Henneberg, "Monuments, Public Space and the Memory of Empire"
Papers due May 9 in my box on 4th floor of Casa, by 5 pm. No emailed papers will be accepted!

Works Listed in Syllabus

- Agnew, John. "The Myth of Backward Italy in Modern Europe" in *Revisioning Italy*, eds. B. Allen and M. Russo (Minneapolis, 1997), 22-42.
- Ahmida, Ali Abdullatif. *The Making of Modern Libya* (Albany, 1994).
- Atkinson, David. "Embodied Resistance, Italian Anxieties, and the Place of the Nomad in Colonial Cyrenaica," in *In Corpore. Bodies in Modern Italian Culture*, ed. Loredana Polezzi
- Barrera, Giulia. "The Construction of Racial Hierarchies in Eritrea," in *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*
- Beckerie, A. "African Americans and the Ethiopian War," in *Revisioning Italy*, eds. Allen and Russo (Minneapolis, 1997), 116-133.
- Ben-Ghiat, Ruth. *Fascist Modernities: Italy, 1922-1945* (Berkeley, 2001).
- "Fascism's Empire Cinema: *Kif tebbi*, the Conquest of Libya and the Assault on the Nomadic," in *Postcolonial Cinema Studies*, eds. Sandra Ponzanese and Marguerite Waller (New York, 2011).
- Camerini, Mario. *Kif tebbi* (1928)
- Denti di Pijano, A. *A Cure for Serpents* (New York, 1955).
- Finaldi, Giuseppe. "Italy's Scramble for Africa from Dogali to Adowa," in *Disastro*, eds. John Dickie, John Foot and Frank Snowden (New York, 2002).
- Fuller, Mia. *Moderns Abroad* (New York: Routledge, 2007).
- Garama, Haile. *Adwa* (1999).
- Jerary, M. "Damages Caused by the Italian Fascist Colonization of Libya," in Ben-Ghiat and Fuller, eds., *Italian Colonialism* (New York, 2005), 203-208.
- Labanca, Nicola. "Studies and Research on Fascist Colonialism," in *A Place in the Sun*, ed. Patrizia Palumbo (Berkeley, 2003), 37-61.
- Larebo, Haile. *The Building of an Empire* (Cambridge, 1994).
- Lombardi-Diop, Cristina. "Pioneering Female Modernity: Fascist Women in Colonial Africa," in Ben-Ghiat and Fuller, eds., *Italian Colonialism* (New York, 2005), 145-154.
- Memmi, A. *The Colonizer and the Colonized* (New York, 1965).
- Mussolini, Benito. "Dopo lo scontro di Ual-Ual," "Saluto ai legionari dell'Africa Orientale," in Mussolini, *L'espansione coloniale* (Rome, 1936), 161-168
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- Pinkus, K. "Shades of Black in Advertising and Popular Culture," in *Revisioning Italy*, eds. B. Allen and M Russo (Minneapolis, 1997), 134-155.
- Sbacchi, Alberto. "Poison Gas and Atrocities in the Italo-Ethiopian War," in Ruth Ben-Ghiat and Mia Fuller, eds. *Italian Colonialism* (New York, 2005), 47-56.
- Segre, Cesare. *Fourth Shore: The Italian Colonization of Libya* (Chicago: 1974).
- Tobino, M. "The Deserts of Libya," in Tobino, Rigoni Stern, Biasion, *The Lost Legions* (New York, 1967).
- Triulzi, Alessandro. "Adwa: From Monument to Document," *Modern Italy* vol.8, no.1 (2003), 95-108.
- Verdicchio, P. "The Preclusion of Postcolonial Discourse in Southern Italy," in *Revisioning Italy*, eds. B Allen and M Russo (Minneapolis, 1997), 191-212.
- Von Henneberg, Krystyna. "Monuments, Public Space and the Memory of Empire," *History and Memory*(spring/summer 2004), 37-85.