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G59.2972, G57.1981. Fall 2011  
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## ITALIAN COLONIALISM

### Description

This course examines Italian colonialism from the late 19<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets (338-1001). The reader is also available on Blackboard. Complete citations for all readings are given on the last page of the syllabus.

### Films

All Luce newsreels and documentaries can be accessed at [www.luce.it](http://www.luce.it) under its "Archivio storico." Search by subject or by the number or title of a specific film.

### 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 during the seminar, your interventions in class debates, and your brief presentations. Since weekly readings are often divided up among students, the active participation of everyone is vital for the success of the seminar. Every week or two students are expected to do brief presentations on Luce newsreels or documentaries relevant to that week's topic, and a 5pp paper on a colonial film, novel or travel reportage, or group of documentaries. Topics of this shorter paper will also be discussed with me.

### Schedule of Meetings and Readings

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

**Sept 6            Introduction**

**Sept 13          Histories and Theories**

Fuller, *Moderns Abroad*, 23-38

Labanca, "Studies and Research on Fascist Colonialism,"  
(optional, as background)

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

\*Agnew, "The Myth of Backward Italy in Modern Europe"  
Cooper, *Colonialism in Question*, 3-32

**Sept 20**

**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)

**Sept 27**

**Colonialism in the Liberal Period**

Fuller, *Moderns Abroad*, 39-53  
Spackman, *Fascist Virilities*, 49-66  
Marinetti, *Mafarka the Futurist/Mafarka il futurista*, chapter 1  
\*Barrera, "The Construction of Racial Hierarchies"  
\*Segrè, *The Fourth Shore*, 3-32

**Oct 4**

**Contexts: Fascist Italy**

Mussolini, "Imperialismo fascista"  
Pinkus, "Shades of Black in Advertising and Popular Culture"  
\*Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, 123-140.  
\*Falasca-Zamponi, *Fascist Spectacle*, 148-182.  
Polezzi, "Imperial Reproductions"

**Oct 11**

**Libya in the 1920s**

Atkinson, "Embodied Resistance, Italian Anxieties..."  
Ben-Ghiat, "The Conquest of Libya and the Assault on the Nomadic"  
Ahmida, *The Making of Modern Libya*, 1-9, 135-144  
Film: *Kif tebbi* (Mario Camerini, 1928)

**Oct 18**

**The Occupation of Ethiopia**

Sbacchi, "Poison Gas and Atrocities in the Italo-Ethiopian War"  
Bekerie, "African Americans and the Italo-Ethiopian War"  
Mussolini, "Dopo lo scontro di Ual-Ual," and "Saluto ai legionari  
dell'Africa Orientale"  
D'Annunzio, "Al legionario volontario per la Guerra d'Africa"

**Oct 25**

**Race and Governance: the Case of Ethiopia**

Barrera, "Mussolini's Colonial Race Laws"  
Fuller, *Moderns Abroad*, 197-213  
Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*, 45-76  
*La fondazione della nuova Addis Abeba* (1939)

**Nov 1**

**Colonial Cultures: Cinema and Music**

**Guest Speaker: Isabella Abbonizio**

Abbonizio, "Ideologia, Cultura, Identità,"  
Ben-Ghiat, reading TBA or  
Bertellini, "Colonial Autism," (255-267 only)

Landy, *Italian Film*, 311-314.  
Film: *Lo squadrone bianco* (Genina, 1936)

- Nov 8      **Men and Women in the Colonies**  
Bellassai, "The masculine mystique"  
Matard-Bonucci, "Italian Fascism's Ethiopian Conquest..."  
\*Pickering-Iazzi, "Mass-Mediated Fantasies" 197-212 only  
\*Lombardi-Diop, "Pioneering Female Modernity"  
Tobino, *Il deserto della Libia/The Deserts of Libya*, 155-169, 206-220  
Giornale Luce B1371 *Campeggio pre-coloniale* (1938)
- Nov 15      **Colonialism and Representation: Photography**  
**Special Guest: Maaza Mengiste**  
Mignemi, "Fotografia e ideologia coloniale"  
Campassi and Sega, "Uomo bianco, donna nera."  
Power Point of images from Maaza Mengiste's personal collection
- Nov 22      **Class via Skype**  
Students will spend their time this week researching and writing their short paper and if I am able to arrange for class via Skype we will have student summations of their papers. Papers will be due on email by Nov 22 by 10 pm NYC time to allow feedback from eventual Skype class meeting to be integrated.
- Nov 29      **The End of Empire**  
Segre, *Fourth Shore*, 161-177  
Borrusio, *Il mito infranto*, 69-93  
Tobino, *The Deserts of Libya*, 224-236, 290-301  
**Film:** *Bengasi* (1942)
- Dec 6      **Legacies of Colonialism: Libya**  
**Guest speaker: Hisham Bizri**  
Jerary, "Damages caused by the Italian Fascist Colonization of Libya"  
Anderson, "Legitimacy, Identity, and the Writing of History in Libya"  
Other reading TBA  
Giornale Nuova LUCE NL 020 *Un raro documento cinematografico sulla colonizzazione italiana in Libia* (shown 1946)  
Settimana Incom 00073 *Una tradizione che continua: il governo riceve i libici* (1947)
- Dec 13      **Legacies of Colonialism: Italy**  
Ballinger, reading TBA  
Del Boca, "Myths, Suppressions and Denials"  
Von Henneberg, "Monuments, Public Space and the Memory of Empire"  
**Seminar papers due Dec 18 in my box on 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Casa, by 5 pm.**  
**No emailed papers will be accepted!**

## Works Listed in Syllabus

- Abbonizio, Isabella. "Ideologia, cultura, identità: politica culturale e istituzioni artistico-musicale coloniali in Libia," *I sentieri della ricerca* (n. 13/giugno 2011).
- 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).
- Anderson, Lisa. "Legitimacy, Identity, and the Writing of History in Libya," in *Statecraft in the Middle East* eds. E. Davis and N. Gavrielides (Gainesville, FL, 1991), 70-91.
- Atkinson, David. "Embodied Resistance, Italian Anxieties, and the Place of the Nomad in Colonial Cyrenaica," in *Italian Bodies*, ed. Loredana Polezzi
- Ballinger, Pamela. TBA
- Barrera, Giulia. "Mussolini's Colonial Race Laws and State-Settler Relations in Africa Orientale Italiana (1935-1941)," *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* (September 2003), 423-443.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Construction of Racial Hierarchies
- Beckerie, A. "African Americans and the Ethiopian War," in *Revisioning Italy*, eds. Allen and Russo (Minneapolis, 1997), 116-133.
- Bellassai, Sandro. "The Masculine Mystique: antimodernism and virility in fascist Italy," *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* (December 2005), 314-335.
- 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 Ponzanesi and Marguerite Waller (New York, 2011).
- Bertellini, Giorgio. "Colonial Autism," in *A Place in the Sun*, ed. Patrizia Palumbo
- Borrusio, Paolo, ed. *Il mito infranto. La fine del sogno africano negli appunti e nelle immagini di Massimo Borrusio* (Manduria, 1997).
- Camerini, Mario. *Kif tebbi* (1928)
- Cooper, Frederick. *Colonialism in Question. Theory, Knowledge, History* (Berkeley, 2005).
- D'Annunzio, Gabriele. "Al legionario volontario per la guerra d'Africa," in *Teneo te Africa* (Rome, 1939).
- Denti di Pijano, A. *A Cure for Serpents* (New York, 1955).
- Falasca-Zamponi, Simonetta. *Fascist Spectacle* (Berkeley, 1997).
- 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).
- Genina, Augusto. *Lo squadrone bianco* (1936).
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Bengasi* (1942).
- 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.
- Marinetti, Filippo. *Mafarka il futurista/Mafarka the Futurist* (1909)
- Memmi, A. *The Colonizer and the Colonized* (New York, 1965).
- Adolpho Mignemi, "Fotografia e ideologia coloniale," in Alessandro Triluzi, ed., *Fotografia e storia dell'Africa, Atti del convegno internazionale Napoli-Roma 9-11 Settembre 1992* (Naples: Istituto Universitario Orientale, 1995), pp.54-55.
- 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.
- Polezzi, Loredana. "Imperial Reproductions." *Modern Italy*
- 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).
- Spackman, Barbara. *Fascist Virilities* (Minneapolis, 1996).
- 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.