

ITALY IN WORLD WAR TWO G59.1985.001 & G57.1985.001, spring 2013

Contact Info

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Course description

Italy from 1940 to 1945, with a focus on cultural and political responses to war and on how the war's representation and memory. Primary sources include reportage, novels, archival documents, memoirs, and non-fiction and feature film. Ongoing themes: the meanings of resistance and collaboration; the problematics of testimony, witnessing, and memory; the impact of war on gender roles and identities; and the representation of violence.

Course materials

The course is conducted in English, but knowledge of Italian is essential. Some of the films we see have no subtitles, and some readings are available only in Italian. All course readings can be accessed on NYU Classes. Elio Vittorini's *Uomini e no* will be ordered the first week of class for those who want the physical book object. Complete citations for all readings are given on the last page of the syllabus. A * indicates readings to be divided up among students.

Note on Films

Films with an AF call number are available for viewing at Avery Fischer on the 2nd floor of Bobst Library. I will arrange a collective screening at the Casa for other films. Sometimes I will upload clips to YouTube. All LUCE newsreels and documentaries can be accessed at www.archivioluce.it, and some are on YouTube, as are Mussolini's speeches.

Course grade

Final seminar paper, 65%; small paper, 15%, 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 interventions in class debates as well as small presentations you will be asked to make during the semester. This is a seminar, not a lecture course, and so the active participation of every one of you is vital for its success.

Schedule of Class Meetings and Readings

- Jan 29** **Introduction**
 Di Scala, *Italy from Revolution to Republic*, 265-282
- Feb 5** **Reflections and Historiographies**
 Bourke, "Remembering War"
 Margalit, *Ethics of Memory*, 48-63
 Bertoldi, *Anni in grigioverde*, 133-140
 Ben-Ghiat, "The Lesser Evil"
- Feb 12** **Fascism and the Culture of War**
 Gentile, *La Grande Italia*, 182-197
 Mussolini, "Popolo Italiano! Corri alle armi..."
 Calvino, *L'entrata in guerra*, 9-26
 Ben-Ghiat, "Remaking the Fascist Man," 340-348
 Luce newsreel of June 10, 1940 of Mussolini speech
- Feb 19** **The Occupation of Greece**
 Margalit, *Ethics of Memory*, 147-168, 176-182
 Agamben, *Quel che resta di Auschwitz/Remnants of Auschwitz*, 11-40
 Bourke, *An Intimate History of Killing*, 1-25
 Santarelli, "Muted Violence: Italian War Crimes in Greece"
 United Nations War Crimes Commission Testimonies
 Forgacs, *Angelo's Film* (1999) AF DVD 2804 P (or *Mediterraneo*)
- Feb 26** **The "Slavic Threat" and the Occupation of Yugoslavia**
 Sluga, "Italian National Identity and Fascism"
 Capogreco, "Internamento e deportazione dei civili jugoslavi"
 Bendotti, et. al, "'Ho fatto la Grecia, l'Albania, la Jugoslavia...'"
 Burgwyn, "General Roatta's war against the partisans in Yugoslavia: 1942"
 United Nations War Crimes Commissions testimonies
- March 5** **The Home Front: Men and Women, Neighbors and Enemies**
 Lepre, *Le illusioni, la paura, la rabbia*, 83-94, "La fame"
 Sorcinelli, "War in the Mental Hospitals"
 *Cortesi, "Evacuation in Italy during the Second World War"
 *Nezzo, "The Defence of Works of Art in Italy during the Second World War,"
 Calvino, *L'Entrata in guerra/Entry into War*, "Gli avanguardisti di Mentone"
 Capogreco, "L'entrata in guerra e l'internamento degli ebrei stranieri"

Student presentations of Luce newsreels on the home front
Pasinetti, *Venezia minore*; Lattuada, *Occhio quadrato*

- March 12 The Prisoner of War Experience**
Ben-Ghiat, "Remaking the Fascist Man," 348-353
Moore and Federowich, chapter 3.
Procacci, "La resistenza non armata..."
Lorenzon, "Il silenzio dei reduci"
Testimonies of Cap. Magg. Giovanni Araldi and Erminio Montanari
*Alpini, *Baracca otto. I giorni della fame*, 5-29
*Lo Conte, *Vita nel lager 1243 (1943-45)*, front matter, 71-81
Prisoners in Paradise (DVD)
- March 19 Spring Break**
- March 26 8 September 1943 and the Passage to Civil War**
Aga Rossi, 8 September 1943
Galli della Loggia, "La tematica della 'morte della patria'..."
Pavone, "Le tre guerre"
Emanuele Caffiero, "Verso il Lager"
Bandiera, *Io fui della IX Armata d'Albania*, 9-11, 136-54
- April 2 The Ambiguities of Liberation: Southern Italy**
Frezza, "Cassino 1943-44: la memoria"
Holmes, "The Italian Job: Five Armies in Italy"
Moe, "Naples '44/'Tammurriata Nera"
Gribaudo, "Moral Collapse in the Countryside,"
Rossellini, *Paisa*, Sicily and Naples episodes
- April 9 Rome Open City: Germans and Italians**
Bravo, "Armed and unarmed"
Franzinelli, *Delatori*, 231-241, 246-249
Camerini, *Due lettere anonime* (1945)
- April 16 The Resistance and its Histories**
*Pezzino, "The Italian Resistance between History and Memory"
*Focardi, *La guerra della memoria*, pp.3-18
Vittorini, *Uomini e no* (1945)
Cavani, *La donna nella Resistenza* (1963)
Rossellini, *Paisa*, Po episode AF
- April 23 The Republic of Salò**
Dunnage, "Making better Italians"

*Fraddosio, "Donne nell'esercito di Salò" (optional?)
 Cavaterra, "'Internati' in patria"
 Testimonies: Nino Arena, Mario Castellacci, Giovanni Cucco,
 Ramiro Flores
 *Vivarelli, *La fine di una stagione*, 27-31, 55-70

- April 30 The Holocaust in/and Italy**
 *Picciotto, "The Shoah in Italy"
 Rodogno, "*Italiani brava gente? Fascist Italy's Policy Toward the Jews in the Balkans, 1941, 1943*"
 Bernard-Donals and Glejzer, *Between Witness and Testimony*, 39-47
 Blanchot, *The Writing of the Disaster*, 14-18, 81-84 (use for lecture)
 Zuccotti, *Under His Very Windows*, 150-170
 Debenedetti, *16 ottobre 1943* (1944) (with preface by Moravia)
 **A Debt to Honor* (documentary)
 **50 Italians* (documentary)
- May 7 The Ambiguities of Liberation:
 Italians and the Allies in Central and Northern Italy**
 Perry, "Pippo volava di sera"
 Rosati, "La memoria dei bombardamenti"
 Absalom, "Allied escapers and the *contadini* in occupied Italy"
Fine things in English
- May 13 Papers are due in my box on the 4th floor by 5 pm
 No emailed papers will be accepted!**

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- Equation," in *The Lesser Evil: Moral Approaches to Genocide Practices*, eds. Helmut Dubiel and Gabriel Motzkin (New York and London, 2004), pp.137-153.
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