

Prof. Ruth Ben-Ghiat
Italian Studies G59.1982/History G57.1982

ITALIAN FASCISM

This course examines the Italian dictatorship. We address the relationship between culture and politics, public and private; Fascist biopolitics; anti-Fascism; fascist colonialism and racism; Fascist-era femininities and masculinities.

Course Materials

The course is conducted in English, and most of the readings are in English. Alternate English-language readings will be found when no translation is available. Readings should be done each week in the order in which they appear on the syllabus.

Paola Masino's *Nascita e morte della massaia* and Ignazio Silone's *Pane e vino/Bread and Wine* will be ordered the first week of class from www.internetbookshop.it (or from Amazon if you require the English editions). All other course readings are available in a reader, "Italian Fascism," which can be consulted on Blackboard .

Films with an AF call number are available at Avery Fischer on the 2nd floor of Bobst Library. There will be a group screening at the Casa Italiana for other films. Those without knowledge of Italian will be assigned alternate films if subtitled versions are not available. All LUCE newsreels and documentaries can be accessed at www.archivioluce.it.

Course grade

Final seminar paper, 80%; class participation, 20%. Class participation is judged by your interventions in class debates. 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.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND READINGS

*Readings to be divided among students

Jan 25 **Introduction**

Feb 1 **Themes and Historiography**

Esposito, "Totalitarianism or Biopolitics"

Griffin, "The Fascist Quest to Regenerate Time," 3-12, 18-22

Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, 1-15

Il cammino degli eroi (1936)

March 29 The Fascist Man

Martin, "Football and Fascism" 80-89, 91-97, 103-104

Stefani, *Colonia per maschi*, 126-152

Landy, *Italian Film*, 309-314

Lo squadrone bianco (Genina, 1936)

April 5 The Fascist Woman

Re, "Fascist Theories of 'Woman' and the Construction of Gender," 76-92

Horn, *Social Bodies*, 66-94

Lombardi-Diop, "Pioneering Female Modernity"

Paulicelli, *Fashion under Fascism*, 17-27

April 12 Axis culture: Autarchy and Anti-Semitism

Morgan, *Italian Fascism*, 179-187, 193-208

Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, 135-141, 148-157

Ipsen, *Dictating Demography*, 184-194

"Manifesto of Race" (1938)

Apr 19 Anti-Fascism: the Silone Case

Leake, *The Re-invention of Ignazio Silone*, 3-13, 117-142

Silone, *Pane e vino/Bread and Wine*

Apr 26 Generation F

Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, 157-159, 162-165

Re, "Fascist Theories of 'Woman'," 92--95

Masino, *Nascita e morte della massaia*

May 3 Class Presentations

See Visconti, *Ossessione*

May 7 Papers due

Works Listed on Syllabus

Atkinson, David. "Totalitarianism and the street in fascist Rome", pp. 13-30 in Nicholas Fyfe, ed. *Images of the Street. Planning, Identity and Control in Public Space* (London, 1998).

_____. "Embodied Resistance, Italian Anxieties and the Place of the Nomad in Colonial Cyrenaica," in *In Corpore. Bodies in Post-Unification Italy*, eds. Loredana Polezzi and Charlotte Ross (Madison, N.J., 2007), pp.56-79.

Barrera, Giulia. "Mussolini's Colonial Race Laws and state-settler relations in Africa Orientale Italiana (1935-41)," *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* vol.8, no.3 (fall 2003): 425-443.

Benadusi, Lorenzo. "Private Life and Public Morals: Fascism and the 'Problem' of Homosexuality," *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions* vol5, no.2 (Autumn 2004): 171-204.

Ben-Ghiat, Ruth. *Fascist Modernities: Italy 1922-1945* (Berkeley, 2001).

Campbell, Timothy. "Vital Matters: Sovereignty, Milieu, and the Animal in Marinetti's Founding Manifesto" *Annali d'Italianistica* 27 (2009): 1-17.

De Grand, Alexander. *Italian Fascism* (Lincoln: 2000).

De Grazia, Victoria. "Nationalizing Women," in De Grazia, ed. *The Sex of Things* (Berkeley, 1996).

Esposito, Roberto. "Totalitarianism or Biopolitics," *Critical Inquiry* 34 (summer 2008): 633-644.

Falasca-Zamponi, Simonetta. *Fascist Spectacle* (Berkeley, 1997).

Foucault, Michel. "Society Must Be Defended." *Lectures at the College de France 1975-1976* (New York, 1997).

Griffin, Roger. "The Fascist Quest to Regenerate Time," from *Fascist Century: Essays by Roger Griffin* (London, 2004), pp.3-23.

Habermas, Jurgen. "The Public Sphere," in *Jurgen Habermas on Society and Politics: A Reader*, ed. Steven Seidman (Boston, 1989), pp.213-236.

Horn, David. *Social Bodies* (Princeton, 1994), 98-114.

Ipsen, Carl. *Dictating Demography* (Cambridge, 1996), 98-114, 65-78.

Landy, Marcia. *Italian Film* (Cambridge, 2000).

Leake, Elizabeth. *The Re-Invention of Ignazio Silone*. (Toronto, 2003).

Lombardi-Diop, Cristina. "Pioneering Female Modernity: Fascist Women in Colonial Africa," in Ben-Ghiat and Fuller, eds., *Italian Colonialism* (New York, 2005), pp.145-154.

Marinetti, Filippo. *Mafarka il futurista. Romanzo africano* (Milan: 1913).

Martin, Simon. "Football and Fascism. Foreign Bodies on Foreign Fields," in *In Corpore: Bodies in Post-Unification Italy*, eds. Loredana Polezzi and Charlotte Ross (Madison, N.J., 2007), pp.80-106.

Morgan, Philip. *Italian Fascism*.

Paulicelli, Eugenia. *Fashion under Fascism* (Oxford, 2004).

Peukert, Detlev. *Inside Nazi Germany*. (New Haven: 1987).

Re, Lucia. "Fascist Theories of 'Woman' and the Construction of Gender," in *Mothers of Invention*, ed. Robin Pickering-Iazzi (Minneapolis, 1995), pp.76-99.

Spackman, Barbara. *Fascist Virilities* (Minneapolis, 1996).

Stefani, Giuletta. *Colonia per maschi. Italiani in Africa Orientale: una storia di genere* (Verona, 2007).