

FASCISM/S. HISTORY, POLITICAL THOUGHT AND PRESENT-DAY ISSUES

Spring 2020

Prof. Salvatore Botta (University of Bologna)

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HOURS:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 5-7pm

BCSP classroom

DESCRIPTION:

The course is divided in two modules focusing on Fascism in its historical, political and organizational contexts and on Fascism as a concept, and the debates it has opened as political thought.

The first part of the course is taught by Prof. Salvatore Botta and provides an overview of Italian Fascism within the European context. Considering the significant international transformations that marked the first half of the 20th century, the course will examine events involving the Italian government from the end of WWI to the start of WWII, with particular attention to the conquering of power of the “Blackshirts” and their consolidation into power. The last few lessons will instead reflect upon other forms of Totalitarianism (Nazism and Stalinism) in 20th century European history, including an analysis of the main Neo-fascist movements that emerged after WWII.

The second part of the course, taught by Prof. Roberta Ferrari, analyzes the main characteristics of Fascism in terms of political rhetoric, concepts and categories, and the tension with the antifascist rhetoric of the Resistance movement and its developments. The objective is to reconstruct the debate around the definition of Fascism and its relationship with modernity, democracy and totalitarian regimes, including a study of totalitarian theories. The last lessons will analyze the Neo-fascist phenomenon, the new right wing movements, and those *fascist permutations* (Griffin, 1991) that demonstrate the persistence of theoretical elements typical of Fascism in current liberal democracies and in the recent populist and sovereigntist discourse throughout Europe and abroad.

INSTRUCTORS:

Salvatore Botta is Researcher of Contemporary History at the University of Bologna in the Department of Arts. He also worked as Researcher at the Department of Social and Political Sciences of University of Bologna, University of Valle d’Aosta and the Emile Chanoux Foundation. As member of the editorial team of the journal “Ricerche di Storia Politica” he writes about political history and the history of Italian and Belgian governments between the 19th and 20th centuries. Some of his publications include: *Politica e calamità. Il governo dell'emergenza naturale e sanitaria nell'Italia liberale*, Rubbettino, 2013; *Monarchia, governo del conflitto e crisi politica in Belgio nel tardo Ottocento*, “Ricerche di Storia Politica”, n. 2/2017.

Roberta Ferrari is Researcher in History of Political Thought and was previously Researcher at the Department of Social and Political Sciences at University of Bologna. She currently holds a part-time teaching position at the department of History of Political Doctrines of the University of Bologna. She is assistant editor of the journal “Scienza & Politica”. Her publications include *Beatrice Potter e il capitalismo senza civiltà. Una donna tra scienza, politica e amministrazione*, Viella, 2017 and, with Michele Cento, *Il socialismo ai margini. Classe e nazione nel sud Italia e in Irlanda*, Rubbettino, 2018.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Each lecture ends with readings of historical documents and student group discussions. Lesson aids include slides, maps, videos and photographs of propaganda.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Italian

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT: Participation (25%), mid-term exam (35%), final exam (40%).

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. Only one absence will be tolerated. Additional absences due to illness must be justified by a doctor's note. **½ point will be reduced from the final grade** for every other absence.

If you cannot attend class, you are expected to get information from your classmates about readings and assignments and to be prepared for the next class. Unjustified lateness will negatively affect your grade in class participation

REQUIRED TEXTS:

First part: Matteo Pasetti, *Storia dei fascismi in Europa*, Archetipo Libri, 2009.
 Additional assigned readings.

Second part: packet provided by the professor that includes sections from *Dizionario del fascismo* (a cura di S. Luzzatto e V. De Grazia), 2 voll., Einaudi, 2005.

Suggested reading (optional):

Emilio Gentile, *Fascismo. Storia e interpretazione*, Roma, Laterza, 2005.

CALENDAR:

First part		
1	Tuesday February 25	course presentation – context of the European crisis
2	Thursday February 27	lesson - <i>Mussolini before Mussolini</i>
3	Tuesday March 3	lesson – <i>March on Rome</i>
4	Thursday March 5	lesson – <i>Institutions of the regime</i>
5	Tuesday March 10	1^a mid-term/lesson
6	Thursday March 12	lesson – <i>Fascism and society</i>
7	Tuesday March 17	lesson – <i>Colonial and racist politics</i>
8	Thursday March 19	lesson – <i>Comparison of regimes: Nazism and Stalinism</i>
9	Tuesday March 24	lesson - <i>Fascism after Fascism</i>
10	Thursday March 26	2^a mid-term/lesson

Second part		
11	Tuesday March 31	course presentation – <i>The problem with the definition</i> - <i>What is Fascism?</i> - <i>Crisis of Liberalism e Fascism</i> - <i>Regimes, modernity, recent events</i>
12	Thursday April 2	lesson – “Duce”
13	Tuesday April 7	lesson – <i>Fascist government</i>
Easter break		
14	Thursday April 16	lesson – <i>Corporate economy e industrialism</i>
15	Tuesday April 21	lesson – <i>Colonial government - 1^a mid-term</i>
16	Thursday April 23	lesson – <i>Fascist patriarchal family and women</i>
17	Tuesday April 28	lesson – <i>Propaganda e indoctrination: principle of hierarchy</i>
18	Thursday April 30	lesson – <i>Violence, racism and relationship with Nazism</i>
19	Tuesday May 5	lesson – <i>The Resistance, the movement and social conflict</i>
20	Thursday May 7	lesson – <i>Neo-fascism: characteristics and rhetoric</i> - 2^a mid-term
*	Tuesday May 5: oral exam on first and second parts.	