

NATION, COLONIES, GROWTH. A HISTORY OF ITALY, 1861-1960

BCSP – Fall 2024

Prof. Michele Cento (University of Urbino)

michele.cento@uniurb.it

ORARIO:

October 7 – December 18

Mondays & Wednesdays 3pm – 5pm

BCSP Classroom

DESCRIPTION: This course analyzes Italy's nation-building process from 1861-1960. As a newly formed country, Italy's first century is seen through a specific lens: the nation's rapport with what it considers "different," "other," and how this concept must be integrated, dominated or excluded. The history of Italy as a social, political and cultural entity post-unification cannot be separated from events such as the war against brigandage in the south, class conflicts involving farmers and factory workers at the margins of society, and colonial conquests through which Italy became part of the "European civilization." In 1960 Italy's colonialist period ended when Somalia became a UN trust territory.

The course is divided into three parts:

1861-1918, unresolved contradictions stemming from the *Risorgimento* and unification, the southern question, liberal colonialism, national identity after WWI.

1919-1943, post-war social conflicts, the development of Fascism, Mussolini's imperial regime up until its fall during WWII.

1943-1960, the new Republic and resistance to nazi-fascism, the political culture of Italy, including socialism and communism, the idea of Italy as a colonial nation and supporter of a "superior European civilization"

60 years following the last administration of an Italian colony, like many other Western nations, Italy must come to terms with its cumbersome past.

INSTRUCTOR: Michele Cento is Assistant Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Urbino "Carlo Bo". He has obtained the National Scientific Qualification to cover the position of Associate professor of Contemporary History.

His studies focus mainly on Italian and American history, with concentration on the Atlantic space and the relationships/cultural and political exchanges that have historically characterized it.

He is member of the editorial staff of the four-monthly review "Ricerche di Storia Politica", published by Il Mulino, and in the scientific committee of the editorial series "l'Antidoto", edited by Viella. Among his publications: *L'ideologia atlantica. La delegittimazione politica dalla Guerra fredda culturale al neoconservatorismo*, Mondadori Education, 2023; *Tra capitalismo e amministrazione. Il liberalismo atlantico di Nitti*, il Mulino, 2017; (con R. Ferrari), *Il socialismo ai margini. Classe e nazione nel Sud Italia e in Irlanda*, Rubbettino, 2018; *Il governo delle differenze: Daniel Bell, la Great Society e il «populismo borghese»*, in «Scienza & Politica», 61 (2019), pp. 35-55. In English, he has published *The Revolution of Rising Entitlements: Daniel Bell and the Logic of Segregation in the Post-Industrial State*, in L. Buonomo, E. Vezzosi (eds.), *Discourses of Emancipation and the Boundaries of Freedom*, Trieste, Edizioni Università di Trieste, 2015, pp. 231-42.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Classroom lectures and group discussions.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Italian

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT: participation (15%); quizzes, class presentations/oral tests (45%), final written 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 will be 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 READINGS:

Extracts from:

1. F. Cammarano, G. Guazzaloca, M.S. Piretti, *Storia contemporanea. Dal XIX al XXI secolo*, Mondadori Education, seconda edizione, 2015.
2. V. Deplano, A. Pes, *Storia del colonialismo italiano*, Carocci, 2024
3. M. Nani, *Ai confini della nazione. Stampa e razzismo nell'Italia di fine Ottocento*, Carocci, 2006

CALENDAR:

Lesson 1	Monday, October 7 Course introduction
Lesson 2	Wednesday, October 9 1861: the unification of Italy and the building of the nation
Lesson 3	Monday, October 14 An “internal colony”? The racist stereotypes about the Italian South with Brigandage, Mafia and the Social Dispute
Lesson 4	Wednesday, October 16 Test: student presentations: the problems of unified Italy and the Southern issue
Lesson 5	Monday, October 21 The start of Italian Colonialism: from Assab Bay to the Eritrean colony
Lesson 6	Wednesday, October 23 The Giolittian age: a new Italy and a new form of nationalism
Lesson 7	Monday, October 28 How do you lead a colony? Laws and special rights in the Italian colonies
Lesson 8	Wednesday, October 30 Test: student presentations on Italian colonialism in the liberal age.
Lesson 9	Monday, November 4 The European trenches and the Libian warfare: Italy in WWI
Lesson 10	Wednesday, November 6 MIDTERM: Written test on lessons' content and on assigned readings – To follow: The post-war era and the threat of Revolution
Lesson 11	Monday, November 11 The birth of Fascism: from the “social origins” to the assassination of congress member Matteotti

Lesson 12	Wednesday, November 13 The Fascist State and Society
Lesson 13	Monday, November 18 Building a new Italy: the empire, the myth of Rome and the racial laws
Lesson 14	Wednesday, November 20 Anti-fascism and the anti-colonial resistance
Lesson 15	Monday, November 25 Test: student presentations on Fascism and the Empire
Lesson 16	Wednesday, November 27 The fall of the Empire: Italy in WWII
Lesson 17	Monday, December 2 Building a new Italy: from Resistance to the Republic
Lesson 18	Wednesday, December 4 Post-colonial Italy and the Italian administration of Somalia
Lesson 19	Monday, December 9 Test: student presentations on the birth of a new Italy and the colonial heritage
Lesson 20	Wednesday, December 11 Italian history and memory
Exam	Monday, December 16 Final written exam
	Wednesday, December 18 Extra Final written exam

First and Second week

- Cammarano, Guazzaloca, Piretti: cap. 2.5: L'Italia: l'unificazione da Cavour alla caduta di Crispi (pp. 41-45)
- Nani: pp. 105-115; 152-156

Third and Fourth week

- cap. 3.5: Africa: le dinamiche della colonizzazione (pp. 74-78)
- cap. 4.3: L'Europa tra nazionalismo e imperialismo (pp. 88-92)
- Deplano, Pes: pp. 20-31

Fifth and Sixth week

- Cammarano, Guazzaloca, Piretti: cap. 5 (tutto): La prima guerra mondiale e lo scontro tra internazionalismo e nazionalismo (pp. 100-121)
- Cammarano, Guazzaloca, Piretti: cap. 6.3: L'Italia dal "biennio rosso" all'avvento del fascismo (pp. 125-137)
- Cammarano, Guazzaloca, Piretti: cap. 6.4: Il fascismo al potere (pp. 137-144)

Seventh and Eighth week

- Deplano, Pes: pp. 110-134
- Cammarano, Guazzaloca, Piretti: cap. 8: La seconda guerra mondiale (parr. 8.1-8.4: pp. 181-194)

Nineth and Tenth week

- Cammarano, Guazzaloca, Piretti: cap. 8.5: I movimenti di Resistenza (par. 8.5: pp. 194-199)
- Deplano, Pes: pp. 135-146; 157-163; 176-180