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HSTR 355.01: Italy 1800 - Present

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HSTR 355: Modern Italy (The French Revolution to the Present)

Objectives of the Course

In *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* (1860), Jacob Burckhardt observed that Italy was “the first-born among the sons of modern Europe.” He meant that with their discoveries and attainments in science, art, and education the Italians led Europe into the modern world. Nevertheless, Italy failed to unify itself and fell victim to foreign invasion. It remained an occupied country for three and one-half centuries. We begin our survey at the point where the Italians slowly emerged from this long period of subjugation. The course deals with the process of unification, its successes as well as its failures. Above all, we seek to understand why the Italians turned to Fascism as the answer to their problems as a people. What was Fascism, why did it attract a vast popular following in Italy, and what have been the consequences in contemporary times of its failure? We approach these subjects primarily from the standpoint of cultural and intellectual history.

Required Reading List

Giacomo Leopardi, *Operette Morali: Essays and Dialogues* (University of California)—Selections noted in syllabus addendum
Tommaso di Lampedusa, *The Leopard* (Pantheon)
Giovanni Verga, *The House by the Medlar Tree* (University of California)
Sibilla Aleramo, *A Woman* (University of California)
Luigi Pirandello, *Naked Masks* (Dutton Plume)
Carlo Levi, *Christ Stopped at Eboli* (FS&G)
Cesare Pavese, *The Moon and the Bonfires* (New York Review of Books)
Leonardo Sciascia, *The Wine-Dark Sea* (New York Review of Books)

Copies of all or most of these books are on the Reserve Shelf of the Library under my name and the course number.

Quizzes, Examinations, and Papers

Students will write a midterm worth 20% of the semester grade and a final worth 40%. The final will not be cumulative. It will only cover course material after the midterm. Both examinations will have mainly an essay format, but some short-answer questions will also be asked. If you are unable to take the midterm or the final at the scheduled time, see me about a makeup. I strongly encourage students to take these examinations on the regularly scheduled dates. A ten-page term paper, the subject of which will be determined by the student in consultation with the professor, will be due on Wednesday, 21 April at 5:00 P.M. The term paper will be worth 30% of the semester grade. Graduate students who are taking the course for graduate credit must write a twenty-page term paper in place of the ten-page assignment. Late papers will be

discounted at the rate of one-third of a grade per day. Three unannounced quizzes will be given during the semester. I regard the quizzes as a barometer of the student's ongoing performance in the course and as a means of checking attendance. The quizzes are worth 10% of the semester grade and cannot be made up at a later date.

Grading Policy

I grade students in accordance with their mastery of the course readings and lectures. I expect students to demonstrate upper-division skill at the university level in the reading of texts and the writing of essays. I set great store by students who demonstrate a capacity and eagerness for growth as readers and writers.

For students who take the course on a Pass/Not Pass basis, the minimum grade for a Pass is "C."

If you take an incomplete in the course, you will have one year in which to finish all requirements before the "I" becomes an "F." As a general rule, students should take care of incompletes as soon as possible.

Students who have need of the Disability Services Center should make certain that they are properly registered there. Let me know what special arrangements you will require for examinations.

I regard plagiarism in any form as the sin against the Holy Ghost. Please consult the Student Conduct Code for a description of the penalties that will result from cheating. The Code is available for review at <http://www.umd.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

Classroom Manners

Please come to class on time and turn off your cell phones. I begin lecturing at ten minutes after the hour, and I expect students to be seated by then. I ask you not to eat or drink in class because it is distracting to me and to other students. The classroom is not a bistro, but a place for serious intellectual work and development. Please do not leave the classroom before the lecture is over.

Office Hours

My office is in University Hall 314 on the Provost's side of the building. My office hours for the semester are MWF 10:00-11:00. If you are not free at this time, please see me about making an appointment for a mutually convenient hour. You can reach me by telephone at 243-2981. My e-mail address is richard.drake@umontana.edu.

Mandatory Public Lecture

In addition to the course lectures and films, students will be required to attend one event in the President's Lecture Series. On Thursday, 1 May at 8:00 P.M. in the University Center Ballroom, Robert P. George will give a lecture, "The Nature and Scope of Religious Freedom." In view of the central role that religion plays in modern Italian culture, Professor George's lecture possesses high historical importance for us. He is the

McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Founder and Director of Princeton University's James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions. For those students who because of work or family responsibilities cannot be present that evening, a film of the lecture will be made available on the Reserve Shelf in the Mansfield Library.

Lectures and Reading Assignments

Week 1

M	27 January	Introduction
W	29 January	The French Revolution and the Rise of Italian Nationalism
F	31 January	Italian Romanticism

Week 2

M	3 February	Discussion of Leopardi (See addendum for reading assignments)
W	5 February	The Making of the Italian State: 1848-1860
F	7 February	The Problem of the South

Week 3

M	10 February	Discussion of Di Lampedusa
W	12 February	Italian Opera in the Nineteenth Century
F	14 February	The Macchiaioli Painters: Slide Lecture

Week 4

M	17 February	Washington-Lincoln Holiday
W	19 February	Church and State in Liberal Italy
F	21 February	The Umbertian Age (1878-1900): The Emergence of the Modern Left and Right

Week 5

M	24 February	Gabriele D'Annunzio and Italian Decadence in the Fin de Siècle: Slide Lecture
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	W	26 February	The Realistic Tradition in Italian Literature: Discussion of Verga
	F	28 February	The Industrial Revolution in Italy
Week 6			
	M	3 March	Italian Imperialism in Africa
	W	5 March	Giolittian Italy: A Democracy in the Making?
	F	7 March	The Women's Movement in Early Twentieth- Century Italy: Discussion of Aleramo
Week 7			
	M	10 March	Review
	W	12 March	Midterm Examination
	F	14 March	The Italian Avant-Garde: Slide Lecture on Futurism
Week 8			
	M	17 March	Italy in World War I
	W	19 March	Postwar Italy and the Triumph of Fascism
	F	21 March	Building the Fascist Dictatorship
Week 9			
	M	24 March	Culture in Fascist Italy: Discussion of Pirandello's <i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i> . In connection with this class, the film "Six Characters in Search of an Author" will be shown in Liberal Arts 203 at 3:00 that same afternoon. The film will then be made available on the Reserve Shelf in the Library.
	W	26 March	Mussolini's Social Policy: Women in Fascist Italy
	F	28 March	Fascist Foreign Policy and the Ethiopian War
		31 March-4 April	Spring Vacation

Week 10

- M 7 April Mussolini's Enemies: Discussion of Levi
- W 9 April Italy in World War II
- F 11 April Visions of Catastrophe: Neorealism in Italian Cinema. In conjunction with this lecture, the film *Rome Open City* will be shown in **Liberal Arts 203** at 3:00 that same afternoon. The film will then be available on the Reserve Shelf in the Library.

Week 11

- M 14 April Italy and the Cold War
- W 16 April The Catholic Church, Christian Democracy, and Italy's Economic Miracle
- F 18 April The Rise of the Communist Party

Week 12

- M 21 April The Gramsci Phenomenon
- W 23 April Discussion of Pavese
- F 25 April Italy in the 1960s

Week 13

- M 28 April Terrorism: The Left and the Right
- W 30 April Italy and the End of the Cold War
- F 2 May The Problem of the South in Contemporary Italy: Discussion of Sciasia

Week 14

M	5 May	The Mafia
W	7 May	Italy and the European Union
F	9 May	Conclusions and review

Final Examination: 3:20-5:20, Wednesday, 14 May

Addendum for Leopardi Reading Assignments

- “History of the Human Race”
- “Dialogue Between Nature and a Soul”
- “Dialogue Between Nature and an Icelander”
- “Song of the Great Wild Rooster”
- “Parini’s Discourse on Glory”
- “Memorable Sayings of Filippo Ottonieri”
- “In Praise of Birds”
- “Dialogue Between Plotinus and Porphyry”
- “Dialogue Between Tristan and a Friend”

For HSTR 355 I see that for Spring of 2011 you used the following:

- Woman by Aleramo 0520049497
- Leopard by Lampedusa 9780375714795
- Operette Morali by Leopardi 0520049284
- Christ Stopped at Eboli by Levi 0374503168
- Moon and the Bonfires by Pavese 1590170210
- Naked Masks by Pirandello 0452010829
- Wine-Dark Sea by Sciascia 0940322536
- House by the Medlar Tree by Verga 0520048504