Spring 2-1-2017

HSTR 355.01: Modern Italy (The French Revolution to Present)

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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)

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. I will post review outlines on Moodle before each exam. 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 in class on Monday, 10 April. 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.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321.

Classroom Manners

Please come to class on time and turn off your cell phones. I begin lecturing on 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.

President’s Lecture Series

Students are not obliged to attend PLS lectures and seminars, but I strongly encourage attendance at these intellectually enriching presentations. For information about the lecture series, go to http://umont.edu/president/events/lectures
Lectures and Reading Assignments

Week 1

M  23 January  Introduction
W  25 January  The French Revolution and the Rise of Italian Nationalism
F  27 January  Italian Romanticism

Week 2

M  30 January  Discussion of Leopardi (See addendum for reading assignments)
W  1 February  Giuseppe Mazzini and the Italian Risorgimento
F  3 February  The Making of the Italian State

Week 3

M  6 February  The Problem of the Italian South
W  8 February  Discussion of Di Lampedusa
F 10 February  The Macchiaioli Painters: Slide Lecture

Week 4

M  13 February  Church and State in Liberal Italy
W  15 February  The Umbertian Age (1878-1900): The Emergence of the Modern Left and Right
F 17 February  Gabriele D’Annunzio and Italian Decadence in the Fin de Siècle: Slide Lecture

Week 5

M  20 February  President’s Day Holiday
W 22 February  The Realistic Tradition in Italian Literature: Discussion of Verga

F 24 February  Italian Opera in the Late Nineteenth Century

**Week 6**

M 27 February  The Industrial Revolution in Italy

W 1 March  Italian Imperialism in Africa

F 3 March  Giolittian Italy: A Democracy in the Making?

**Week 7**

M 6 March  The Women’s Movement in Early Twentieth-Century Italy: Discussion of Aleramo

W 8 March  Midterm Examination

F 10 March  The Italian Avant-Garde: Slide Lecture on Futurism

**Week 8**

M 13 March  Italy in World War I

W 15 March  Postwar Italy and the Triumph of Fascism

F 17 March  Building the Fascist Dictatorship

**Spring Vacation: 20-24 March**

**Week 9**

M 27 March  Culture in Fascist Italy: Discussion of Pirandello’s *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. A film of this play will be available on Moodle.

W 29 March  Mussolini’s Social Policy: Women in Fascist Italy

F 31 March  Fascist Foreign Policy and the Ethiopian War
### Week 10

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>3 April</td>
<td>Mussolini’s Enemies: Discussion of Levi</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>Italy in World War II</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>7 April</td>
<td>Visions of Catastrophe: Neorealism in Italian Cinema. In conjunction with this lecture, the film <em>Rome Open City</em> will be discussed. The film will be available on Moodle.</td>
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### Week 11

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>10 April</td>
<td>Italy and the Cold War</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>12 April</td>
<td>The Catholic Church, Christian Democracy, and Italy’s Economic Miracle</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>14 April</td>
<td>The Rise of the Communist Party</td>
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### Week 12

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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>The Gramsci Phenomenon</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>Discussion of Pavese</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>21 April</td>
<td>Italy in the 1960s</td>
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### Week 13

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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>Terrorism: The Left and the Right</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>26 April</td>
<td>Italy and the End of the Cold War</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>The Problem of the South in Contemporary Italy: Discussion of Sciasia</td>
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### Week 14

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<td>M</td>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>The Mafia</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>The Italian Crisis Today</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>5 May</td>
<td>Conclusions</td>
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Final Examination: 3:20-5:20, Thursday, 11 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”