



Modern Italian History - Spring Semester 2021

Prof. Arturo Marzano (arturo.marzano@unipi.it)

Timetable:

Tuesday 8:30 – 10:00

Thursday 8.30 – 10:00

Beginning of classes: February 16

End of classes: April 22

Syllabus

Course description

The aim of this course is allowing students to develop a basic knowledge of the Italian history during the 19th and 20th centuries, in particular its political dynamics, keeping in mind the socio-economic and cultural changes that happened along two centuries.

Course topics include, among others, the *Risorgimento*, the creation of the Italian Kingdom, the Great War, Fascism, the Second World War, the birth of Italian Republic and its first elections.

Requirements

Class attendance and participation: Class participation is compulsory and students are required to actively contribute to the discussion.

Readings: this is a fundamental part of the course, and students are required to be familiar with the readings before class. Carefully reading the pages assigned is crucial to follow the discussion and the explanations in class and to actively and critically participate in it, with questions and comments.

Assessment methods:

The final mark will be based on:

- 1) Class attendance. Students have to attend at least 85% of classes. They are required to actively contribute to the discussion on the readings that are assigned and on the sources that might be presented in class. 30% of the final grade will be based on that.
- 2) A mid-term exam, based on the assigned readings and on what has been discussed in classes during the first half of the course. The exam will represent 30% of the final grade.
- 4) A final written exam, based on the assigned readings and on what has been discussed in class during the course. The exam will represent 40% of the final grade.



Texts:

- 1) John Davis (Ed. by), *Italy in the Nineteenth Century 1796-1900*, Oxford University Press, 2000
- 2) Adrian Lyttelton (Ed. by), *Liberal and Fascist Italy 1900-1945*, Oxford University Press, 2002
- 3) Paul Ginsborg, *A History of Contemporary Italy. Society and Politics 1943-1988*, Penguin Books, 1990

- **Class 1. Tuesday 16 February**

Introduction to the Course

- **Class 2. Thursday 18 February**

From the French Revolution to Napoleon

Reading: Davis, Chapter 1

- **Class 3. Tuesday 23 February**

From the age of Restoration to 1848

Reading: Davis, Chapter 2

- **Class 4. Thursday 25 February**

The Italian Risorgimento: Mazzini

Reading: Davis, Chapter 3

- **Class 5. Tuesday 2 March**

The Italian Risorgimento: Cavour

Reading: Davis, Chapter 4

- **Class 6. Thursday 4 March**

The Italian Risorgimento: Garibaldi

Reading: Davis, Chapter 5



- **Class 7. Tuesday 9 March**
Italy's first decade (1861 – 1870)
Reading: Davis, Chapter 6
- **Class 8. Thursday 11 March**
Italy's first decades: the political system (1861 – 1900)
Reading: Davis, Chapter 6
- **Class 9. Tuesday 16 March**
Mid-term exam. Details will be given in class
- **Class 10. Thursday 18 March**
Italy: state and society at the beginning of the century (1900 – 1915)
Reading: Lyttelton, Chapter 1
- **Class 11. Tuesday 23 March**
The Great War
Reading: Lyttelton, Chapter 4
- **Class 12. Thursday 25 March**
Fascism: ideology and foreign policy (1922 – 1943) (I)
Reading: Lyttelton, Chapter 5
- **Class 13. Tuesday 30 March**
Fascism: ideology and foreign policy (1922 – 1943) (II)
Reading: Lyttelton, Chapter 5
- **Class 14. Thursday 1 April**
Fascism: a totalitarianism? (1922 – 1943) (I)



Reading: Lyttelton, Chapter 6

Easter Break

- **Class 15. Tuesday 13 April**

Fascism: a totalitarianism? (1922 – 1943) (II)

Reading: Lyttelton, Chapter 6

- **Class 16. Thursday 15 April**

The Second World War: the Italian Resistance and the Liberation (1943 – 1945) (I)

Reading: Ginsborg, Chapter 2

- **Class 17. Tuesday 20 April**

The Second World War: the Italian Resistance and the Liberation (1943 – 1945) (II)

Reading: Ginsborg, Chapter 2

- **Class 18. Thursday 22 April**

The Post-War Settlement (1945 – 1948)

Reading: Ginsborg, Chapter 3

- **Final written exam**

Two possible dates in June. Details will be given in class