

Topics in Twentieth Century Europe, HIEU 172
Fascism in Italy and Germany

This course will be a comparative and thematic examination of the fascist movement in Europe from the 1920s to the 1940s. In particular, it will focus on the emergence of the two major fascist movements, in Italy and Germany, and on the formation and operation of fascist regimes in these two countries. This comparative approach will facilitate discussion of the central question of the course: what is the nature of fascism? Is fascism a broad category that encompasses both the German and Italian regimes or was nazism a unique phenomenon? How can we incorporate the vast differences between fascist movements and "fascism in power" within a single definition? While these questions have been asked and answered many times, no historical consensus has been reached. The goal of the seminar is to draw our own conclusions based on close examination of the German and Italian case studies.

The following texts have been ordered at Groundworks Books:
(All required texts are also on reserve at the Undergraduate Library.)

William Sheridan Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power

Victoria de Grazia, How Fascism Ruled Women

Robert Paxton, The Anatomy of Fascism

Michael Burleigh and Wolfgang Ipperman, The Racial State: _____ Germany, 1933-1945

The rest of the readings on the syllabus can be found in a packet of readings which can be purchased at Soft Reserves. This packet includes major chunks of books which were out of print, plus the reproduction of an entire book, Paul Corner's Fascism in Ferrara.

The final grade of the course will be based on three components: 1) overall class participation 2) an oral presentation given on a week's reading 3) a 15-20 page paper.

READINGS:

March 30: Introduction: The Origins of Fascism

Robert Paxton, The Anatomy of Fascism, chs.1-2

Mark Mazower, Dark Continent, ch.1

April 6: How Fascism Came to Power: At the Grassroots

Paxton, Anatomy, ch.3

Paul Corner, Fascism in Ferrara

April 13: How Fascism Came to Power: at the Grassroots

William Sheridan Allen, The Nazi Seizure of Power, chs.1-16

April 20: From the Seizure of Power to the Fascist State

Paxton, Anatomy, chs.4-5 (to p.135)

Ian Kershaw, "Hitler: Master in the Third Reich or Weak Dictator?"
R.J.B.Bosworth, "Mussolini the Duce", in The Italian Dictatorship

April 27: The Aesthetics of Fascist Power

Ian Kershaw, The Hitler Myth, Intro and ch.2

Emilio Gentile, The Struggle for Modernity, ch.6, "The Theatre of Politics in Fascist Italy"

Simonetta Falasca-Zamponi, Fascist Spectacle, Intro, chs1-2

May 4: Life Under Fascist Rule: Consent and Coercion

Paxton, Anatomy, ch. 5 (p135-145)

Tim Mason, "The Containment of the Working Class", in Jane Caplan, ed.
Nazism, Fascism and the Working Class

Edward Tannenbaum, The Fascist Experience, ch.5

Robert Gellately, Backing Hitler: Consent and Coercion in Nazi Germany, intro, chs 2-3

May 11: The Gendered Nature of Fascist Society

Jill Stephenson, "Women, Motherhood and the Family in the Third Reich", in
Michael Burleigh, ed. Controlling the Nazi Past

Vicky de Grazia, How Fascism Ruled Women

Adelheid von Saldern, "Victims or Perpetrators?" in David Crew, ed.
Nazism and German Society.

May 18: Race in Nazi Society: a German Peculiarity?

Paxton, Anatomy, ch.6

Michael Burleigh and Wolfgang Wipperman, The Racial State: Germany, 1933-1945

May 25: Memorial Day Holiday

June 1: What is Fascism?: Theoretical Debates and Comparisons

Paxton, Anatomy, ch.8

Ian Kershaw, "The Essence of Nazism"

Michael Burleigh and Wolfgang Wipperman, The Racial State,
Conclusion (p304-307)