

HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE

HIST 315 / POLSC 430: History and Politics of Modern Italy: From the Risorgimento to Fascism and WWII

Credits: 3

Instructor: Peter Fischer, Ph.D.

Schedule: TBA

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

This course has been designed to review and examine the modern political history of Italy from Unification to the end of the Second World War. The main areas of focus will be: the difficult struggle for independence and the state building process, the substantial problems the liberal state faced in trying to generate mass loyalty after unification, the rise of fascism after the First World War, and the establishment and consolidation of the fascist state after 1922. Particular attention will be paid to key issues such as the concept of nation, modern political ideologies, Church-State relationships, the North-South divide, the crucial alliance between fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, as well as the emergence of an anti-fascist Resistance Movement. The second part of this course, "Part II: Italy from WWII to the Present", will follow in the spring term.

The course will be taught through a combination of formal lectures and workshop in which students are given a variety of primary and secondary source material and/or some extracts from documentary films to discuss.

Course descriptions may be subject to occasional, minor modifications at the discretion of the instructor.

Textbooks:

Readings include, but are not limited to, selections from the following:

B. Turner, ed.. Italy Profiled. NY, 2000.

R. King. Italy. London, 1987.

G. Holmes, ed. The Oxford Illustrated History of Italy. Oxford, 2001.

P. Ginsborg, A History of Contemporary Italy. London, 1990

Italy and its Discontents. London, 2001.

M. Frei. Italy – The Unfinished Revolution. London, 1996.

J.L.Newell. Parties and Democracy in Italy. Ashgate, 2000.

During orientation at the Institute, students will receive a list of textbooks they are required to purchase. Students should not purchase any texts before orientation.