



Figures in Modern Italian History Course Syllabus

Course Title:

Figures in Modern Italian History

Term and Year:

Fall 2019

Total Hours and Credits:

45 hours of lessons provided in English with Italian translation when needed; 3 credits

Prerequisites:

Basic interest in history, international studies, Italian culture; non-majors welcome

Course Instructor:

Faculty

Materials:

Students will be provided a reading packet and media-based materials. Preparatory materials will be given to students for on-site visits and cultural activities presented throughout the course.

Course Objectives:

To study the development of modern-day Italian society from WWI to the present and to focus on the important historical figures that helped to shape the current situation of the country.

Course Description:

This course presents students with an overview of the events that have shaped Italian society and examines the historical events and figures that contributed to the current political, economical and social situation in the country. Students will learn to deconstruct established images and perceptions of Italy and of important historical Italian figures through a more in-depth study of factors such as the history of immigration, war and reconstruction, the Northern and Southern rift, the Mafia question and corruption, the family and Church, male and female roles in the workplace, film and literature and the origin of popular traditions. Students will focus on historical figures such as Victor Emmanuel III, Benito Mussolini, Gabriele D'Annunzio, Leonilde Lotti, Gianni Agnelli and Dacia Maraini.

Evaluation:

This course is divided into ten units that are comprised of lessons, guest speaker events and on-site visits to cultural sites and events with material-based quizzes that conclude each unit. A final exam will be given at the conclusion of the course that is comprised of both a written portion and an in-class presentation.

Course Outline:

Units	Duration (Hours)
Unit 1: <i>Fabric of Modern Italian Society</i>	3 hours
Unit 2: <i>WWI and Italian Migration to the US</i>	4 hours
Unit 3: <i>The Rise of Benito Mussolini</i>	5 hours
Unit 4: <i>WWII and Devastation</i>	6 hours
Unit 5: <i>The Role of the Mafia in the US Route in Sicily</i>	4 hours
Unit 6: <i>Post-WWII Family and the Church</i>	4 hours
Unit 7: <i>Feminist Movement in Italy...or Not?</i>	4 hours
Unit 8: <i>The Italian Industrial Boom</i>	5 hours
Unit 9: <i>How to Kidnap a Very Important Person</i>	5 hours
Unit 10: <i>Economic Recession and the Brain Drain</i>	5 hours

Attendance Policies:

Students may be absent for no more than 2 lessons in the semester, which includes classroom and on-site visits, as well as in-class discussions or events that take place throughout the course. Students are expected to complete all course work presented in each unit to receive course credits and to communicate any changes in class attendance immediately with their instructor via email.