



HS330 NEVER GIVE IN! FASCISM, ANTI-SEMITISM, AND RESISTANCE IN ITALY, 1922-1948

IES Abroad Milan

DESCRIPTION:

The aim of this class is to introduce students to the military, political and moral resistance of Italians to the Nazi occupation and Fascist rule during the last stage of World War II (1943-45). This event plays a primary role in modern Italian history, not least because the political narrative of the so-called 'Resistance' supported and legitimated the rise of the Italian Republic in 1946. Milan not only played a crucial role in the birth of fascism in 1919 but also in the Resistance movement, which had its headquarters in the city. It is not by chance that the liberation of Milan on April 25th, 1945 is still celebrated as the most important national holiday in Italy.

To understand the Resistance, it is necessary to understand Fascist ideology (whose core was nationalism) and the major events that enabled Mussolini to take power, as well as of the roots of anti-Semitism in Italy and Europe. As a guide through these issues, we will use a classical work by Federico Chabod (*A History of Italian Fascism*, 1950), whose liberal interpretation of modern Italian history was very influential after World War II and shaped conventional political narratives about Fascism in Italy and the rise of the Resistance. At the same time, Chabod's traditional view will be challenged by recent historical approaches that shed light on controversial topics excluded from his narrative (i.e., the Resistance as a 'civil war').

Major emphasis will be placed on the persecution and rescue of the Jews. In this regard, Italy represents a unique case with respect to the rest of Europe: about 65% of Jews in Italy survived the war. To understand this fact, it is necessary to explore the category of 'moral resistance' and situate it in relation to the traditional categories of 'political' and 'military resistance'.

The course-related trips are fundamental to the course, which visits the Shoah Memorial of Milan and the former prison of Sant'Agata in Bergamo, where members of the Resistance movement were imprisoned during the Nazi occupation of Northern Italy before being sent to deportation camps in Germany. Moreover, the students will be encouraged to visit the CDEC (Jewish Contemporary Documentation Center – www.cdec.it) in Milan for their research papers and projects. The course will be taught in a 'seminar' style.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: Introduction to modern European history.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Discussions, case studies, student in-class oral presentations, course-related trips, movies. All assignments and PowerPoint presentations will be posted to the Moodle class webpage.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course Participation – 20%
- Homework – 20%
- Midterm Exam – 20%
- In-class Oral Presentation of Research Project – 20%
- Final Paper – 20%

Course Participation

Class participation will be evaluated according to the interaction of each student with their classmates and with the instructor during the sessions of discussion.



Homework

The grade of the home assignments will be based on the accomplishments of the requirements (deadlines, readings, research).

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be based on: 1) a chronological table, where dates should be associated to their proper corresponding historical events; 2) some multiple-choice questions; 3) two essay questions. The exam aims to determine if students are able to use material causes and human motivations to explain historical events.

In-class Oral Presentation of Research Project

The grade for the in-class oral presentations of research works will be based on the clarity and force of the communication, the number and quality of the sources, the interaction with the instructor and the local environment (if involved) and the compliance with deadlines.

Final Paper

The grade for the final home papers will be based on and the correctness and the clarity of the written work and on the completeness of information. The final paper will be focused on the course-related trip to the Shoah Memorial of Milan.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will gain a critical understanding of the historical issues of the period and develop their critical thinking and moral reasoning. We will focus on case studies in order to involve emotionally the students and encourage them to use their imagination to identify themselves not only with the victims but also with those who risked their lives to help them. During the class everybody will be required to ask herself or himself: "what would I do in those same circumstances?" As the knowledge about the Italian rescuers of the Jews is still largely incomplete, students will be encouraged to do research on it, in connection with the Garden of the Righteous in the World.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to be responsible for their own class attendance and to give academic responsibilities priority over other activities. Regular class attendance is mandatory. For physical and mental health reasons, IES Abroad Milano allows a maximum of THREE (3) absences in each Italian language course, TWO (2) absences in each Area Studies course, and ONE (1) absence in each Seminar course. Every absence beyond this allowance will automatically result in a penalty of 2 percentage points off the final grade. SEVEN (7) absences will result in a failing grade in Italian language and Area Studies courses. FOUR (4) absences will result in a failing grade in Seminar courses. Failure to attend a scheduled exam, test, quiz, or presentation will automatically result in an F grade on that assessment.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments
<i>Session 1</i>	Premises: 1. Liberal Italy, 1861-1915 2. The Seedbed of Fascism	Blinkhorn (pg. 1-18)
<i>Session 2</i>	Economy, Society and Politics in Italy after the First World War	Chabod (pg. 15-43)
<i>Session 3</i>	Fascism: Rise and Seizure of Power (1919-25)	- Blinkhorn (pg. 19-25) - Chabod (pg. 47-69)

Session 4	Course-Related Trip: Fascist & Jewish Milano	E. Gentile, <i>Fascism as Political Religion</i>
Session 5	Fascist Italy: Dictatorship, Totalitarianism and Imperialism (1925-36)	- Blinkhorn (pg. 26-44) - Chabod (pg. 69-84)
Session 6	Italy 1936-1943: 1. Anti-Fascism 2. The Decline and Fall of the Regime	- Blinkhorn (pg. 47-53) - Chabod (pg. 87-117)
Session 7	Course related trip: Old prison of Sant'Agata (Bergamo)	
Session 8	The Italian Jews	A. Stille, <i>The Double Bind of Italian Jews: Acceptance and Assimilation</i> (Zimmerman, pg. 19-34) M. Toscano, <i>Italian Jewish Identity from the Risorgimento to Fascism</i> (Zimmerman, pg. 35-54) A. Canepa, <i>Christian-Jewish Relations in Italy from Unification to Fascism</i> (Herzer, pg. 13-33) K. Voigt, <i>Jewish Refugees and Immigrants in Italy, 1933-1945</i> (Herzer, pg. 141-158)
Session 9	Film: <i>Il Generale della Rovere</i> (General della Rovere), by R. Rossellini (1959)	
Session 10	The Racial Laws in Italy	- Gillette (pg. 35-49) M. Sarfatti, <i>Characteristics and Objectives of the Anti-Jewish Racial Laws in Fascist Italy</i> (Zimmerman, pg. 71-80) I. Nidam-Orvieto, <i>The Impact of Anti-Jewish Legislation on Everyday Life and the Response of Italian Jews, 1938-1943</i> (Zimmerman, pg. 158-181) A. Cavaglioni, <i>The Legacy of the Risorgimento: Jewish Participation in Anti-Fascism and the Resistance</i> (Herzer, pg. 73-94)

Session 11	The Rise of Racial Persecution	• A. Capristo, <i>The Exclusion of Jews from Italian Academics</i> (Zimmerman, pg. 81-95) • R. Finzi, <i>The Damage to Italian Culture: The Fate of Jewish University Professors in Fascist Italy and After, 1938-1946</i> (Zimmerman, pg. 96-113) • F. Levi, <i>Anti-Jewish Persecution and Italian Society</i> (Zimmerman, pg. 199-208)
Session 12	Midterm Exam	• Study for the Midterm Exam
Session 13	Film: <i>Roma Città Aperta (Rome Open City)</i> by R. Rossellini (1945)	
Session 14	The Shoah in Europe & Italy I	• Marrus & Paxton • P. Bookbinder, <i>Italy in the Overall Context of the Holocaust</i> (Herzer, pg. 95-108) • F.J. Coppa, <i>The Papal Response to Nazi and Fascist Anti-Semitism: From Pius XI to Pius XII</i> (Zimmerman, pg. 265-286)
Session 15	The Shoah in Europe & Italy II	• Stille (pg. 17-90) • L. Picciotto Fargion, <i>The Jews During the German Occupation and the Italian Social Republic</i> (Herzer, pg. 109-138)
Session 16	Guest Lecture: <i>Who are the Righteous?</i> (Prof. Sante Maletta)	• Paldiel • Stille (pg. 91-166)
Session 17	The Persecution of the Jews in Europe and Italy	• L. Picciotto, <i>The Shoah in Italy: Its History and Characteristics</i> (Zimmerman, pg. 209-223)
Session 18	Fossoli – Point of no return	• Stille (pg. 167-222) • Stille (pg. 279-314)
Session 19	Course related trip: Memoriale della Shoah di Milano (The Shoah Memorial of Milan)	

Session 20	The Rescue of the Jews in Europe and Italy	S. Zuccotti, <i>Pius XII and the Rescue of Jews in Italy: Evidence of a Papal Directive</i> (Zimmerman, pg. 287-307) - Stille (pg. 223-278)
Session 21	Student Presentations	
Session 22	Student Presentations	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Fascist & Jewish Milano
- Old Prison of Sant'Agata (Bergamo)
- The Shoah Memorial of Milan

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Blinkhorn, Martin. *Mussolini and Fascist Italy*, London: Routledge, 2006.
- Chabod, Federico. *A History of Italian Fascism*, Bath: Chivers, 1974.
- Stille, Alexander. *Benevolence & Betrayal. Five Italian Jewish Families Under Fascism*, New York: Summit Books 1991.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Arendt, Hannah. *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*, London: Faber & Faber, 1963.
- Gentile, Emilio. "Fascism as a Political Religion", *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 25, No. 2/3 (May-Jun., 1990), pp. 229-251.
- Gillette, Aaron. *Racial Theories in Fascist Italy*, London: Routledge, 2002.
- Herzer, Ivo (ed.). *The Italian Refuge. Rescue of Jews During the Holocaust*. Washington D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 1989.
- Marrus, Michael R. & Paxton, Robert O. "The Nazis and the Jews in Occupied Western Europe, 1940-1944", *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 54, No. 4 (Dec., 1982), pp. 687-714.
- Paldiel, Mordechai, "To the Righteous among the Nations Who Risked Their Lives to Rescue Jews", *Yad Vashem Studies*, XIX, pp. 403-425.
- Stille, Alexander. *Benevolence and Betrayal. Five Italian Jewish Families under Fascism*, New York: Picador, 1991.
- Zimmerman, Joshua D. (ed.). *Jews in Italy Under Fascist and Nazi Rule, 1922-1945*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.