

ITAL1590 Word, Media and Power in Modern Italy

Spring 2014

Massimo Riva/Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg

Massimo_Riva@brown.edu

Suzanne_Stewart-Steinberg@brown.edu

Office hours: MWF 12-1, Faculty Study B-15, Rockefeller library (MR)

Tuesdays 9-11, 190 Hope St; Room 301 (SSS)

Description: This course explores the respective and intertwining roles of media (print, news, art, music, photography, cinema, radio, television) in shaping national identity, nationalistic agendas, imperial aspirations, democratic revivals and populist consensus in Italy, from the Risorgimento age to the Fascist regime, and from the post-WW2 renaissance to the "decadent" Berlusconi era. The most influential genres and trends in Italian culture, from opera to futurism, from neo-realist cinema and literature to post-modern fashion and architectural design, will be analyzed against the backdrop of the most important social and political turning points of Italian and European history. Rather than following the more traditional chronological trajectory of studying modern Italy, this course will engage topics along more thematic line, seminar-style discussions of materials on Wednesdays, student presentations and discussion on Fridays. All students will contribute to a Canvas discussion blog with a weekly posting (due on Friday).
Assessment: Participation and class presentation=30%; weekly posting (due every Friday, beginning January 31)=30%; final project (in any media)=40% (due on May 6).

All course materials will be available via Canvas, OCRA, JSTOR.

Reference Textbooks (available at Brown Bookstore):

- Christopher Duggan, *The Force of Destiny. A History of Italy since 1796*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2008 [Duggan]
- David Forgacs and Robert Lumley, *Italian Cultural Studies: An Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 1996 [ICS]
- R. De Felice, *Fascism: An Informal Introduction to Its Theory and Practice*, 1977

WEEKLY PROGRAM

Week 1, Jan 22-24

January 22. Introduction to the Course, overview of the Syllabus

January 24. "Italy, Re-imagined" [lecture, MR]

Reading assignment: J. Dickie, "Imagined Italies" (ICS, chapter 1) [on Canvas]

Background Reading: Duggan, part 1, "Awakening" [on Canvas]

Week 2, Jan. 27-29-31. Topic: Unity/Disunity

Background Reading: Duggan, part 2-3, "Preaching and Poetry"

January 27. Mediating the Risorgimento [lecture, MR]. Materials covered: The Garibaldi panorama [<http://library.brown.edu/cds/garibaldi/>]; *Il piccolo garibaldino* [silent film, 1909, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbLFToLPtYo>; intertitles in Italian,

translation on Canvas]. Readings: L. Riall, *Garibaldi, Invention of a Hero* (Introduction and Conclusion: "The Myth of Garibaldi") [on Canvas]; A. Lyttleton, "Creating a National Past: History, Myth and Image in the Risorgimento" [on Canvas]

January 29. Opera, Spectacle and Italian Identity [lecture, SS]. Materials: Giuseppe Verdi, *Nabucco* (audio); Reading: Roger Parker, 'Va' pensiero and the Insidious Mastery of Song.' [on Canvas]; Muti in Rome 2011 (video) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaXE0v0bJoE&list=RDG_gmtO6JnRs; Psalm 137 [on Canvas]; Salvatore Quasimodo, "On the Boughs of the Willows" [Alle fronde dei salici [on Canvas].

January 31. Discussion: Luchino Visconti, *Senso* (film, 1954); Reading: A. Dalle Vacche, – Discussion post due.

Week 3, Feb. 3-5-7. Topic: Identity/Diversity

Background Reading: Duggan, part 4, Prose.

February 3. "The Pinocchio Effect" [lecture, SS]; Readings: Stewart-Steinberg, Introduction and Chapter 1 of *The Pinocchio Effect* (on canvas); Carlo Lorenzini (Collodi), last chapter of *Pinocchio* [on Canvas]

February 5. The Pinocchio Effect as Power [discussion]; Reading: Stewart-Steinberg, Chapter 3 [on Canvas].

February 7: Photography and Italy, 1. Discussion of M. Antonella Pellizzari, *Photography and Italy*, introduction and Chapters 2 ("Risorgimento Mythologies") and 4 ("Amateurs and Professionals") [on Canvas] – Discussion post due

Week 4, Feb. 10-12-14. Topic: North/South

February 10. Cavalleria Rusticana [lecture, SS]; Reading: Giovanni Verga, Three novellas [on canvas]; Carlo Levi, selection from *Christ Stopped at Eboli* [on Canvas] Materials: Carlo Levi's Visual Poetics (Paintings and drawings, on Canvas)

February 12. The Southern Question [discussion]; Reading: G. Gribaudi, "Images of the South" [ICS, chapter 4]; J. Davis, "The South and the Risorgimento: histories and counter-histories" [on Canvas]; Nelson Moe, "This is Africa: Ruling and Representing Southern Italy, 1860-61" [on Canvas]; Jane Schneider, *Orientalism in One Country*, Introduction [on Canvas]

February 14 Neo-Realism 1. Discussion of L. Visconti, *La terra trema* (film, 1948); Reading: T. De Mauro, "Linguistic Variety and Linguistic Minorities," ICS, chapter 5 - Discussion post due

Week 5, Feb. 19-21. Topic: Modernity/Modernism

Background Reading: Duggan, part 5, "War".

February 19. Politics [lecture, SS]; Readings: N. Bobbio, selections from *Ideological Profile of 20th-Century Italy* [on Canvas]; G. D'Annunzio, http://www.reakt.org/fiume/charter_of_carnaro.html

February 21. Futurist manifestos - literature, painting, architecture, music, cuisine (discussion). Materials: *Cabiria* (film, 1914, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOWicOwtHa8>). Readings: Futurist Manifestos [on

Canvas]; Jeffrey T. Schnapp, Stanford University *Keynote Address: Why Is Speed a Religion-Morality?* [audio, listen at: <http://slought.org/content/11414/>]; M. Perloff, "Violence and Precision: The Manifesto as Form" [on Canvas] – Discussion post due

Week 6. Feb 24-26-28. Topic: Revolution/Reaction (Left/Right)

Background Reading: Duggan, part 6, "Fascism."

February 24. Revolutionary Theory [lecture, SS]; Reading: Gramsci, *Selections from the Prison Notebooks* [on Canvas]

February 26. Fascism [discussion]; Reading: J. Schnapp, selections from *A Primer of Italian Fascism* [on Canvas]

February 28. Discussion of Bernardo Bertolucci, 1900, part one [film, 1976, on Canvas] – Discussion post due

Week 7. March 3-5-7. Topic: Repression/Consent

March 3. Totalitarianism [lecture, SS]; Reading: R. De Felice, *Fascism: An Informal Introduction to Its Theory and Practice* [on Reserve]

March 5. Propaganda and Culture [discussion]; Materials: *Mussolini. The Story of a Personality Cult* [documentary, on Canvas], LUCE documentaries; Readings: S. Luzzatto, *The Body of the Duce*, Prologue [on Canvas]; S. Falasca-Zamponi, "The Politics of Symbol" [on Canvas]; S. Ricci, "The Fascist Codex" [on Canvas]

March 7. Discussion of Bernardo Bertolucci, *The Conformist* (film, 1970) – Reading: J. Kline, "The Unconforming Conformist," [on Canvas] - Discussion post due

Week 8 March 10-12-14. Topic: Resistance/Civil War (Passion/Violence)

Background Reading: Duggan, Part 7, "Parties," chapter 1.

March 10. Death and Rebirth of a Nation [lecture, MR]; Readings: selection from C. Pavone, *A Civil War: A History Of The Italian Resistance* [on Canvas]; selection from I. Calvino, *The Path to the Nest of Spiders* [on Canvas]

March 12. Political Identities and Culture Wars [discussion]; Materials: R. Rossellini, *Open City* (film, 1945); Readings: S. Parker, "Political Identities" [ICS, chapter 6]; C. Wagstaff, "Roma, Città Aperta" [on Canvas]

March 14. Discussion of Taviani Brothers, *The Night of the Shooting Stars* (film, 1982); Reading: M. Marcus, "The Night of the Shooting Stars," [on Canvas] - Discussion post due

Week 9 March 17-19-21. Topic: Gender/Family

March 17. Catholicism, political and unpolitical [lecture, SS]; Readings: J. Pratt, "Catholic Culture," ICS, chapter 7; "Gender Relations," ICS, chapter 8; P. Ortoleva, "A Geography of the Media since 1945," ICS, chapter 9.

March 19. Love Meetings [discussion]. Materials: P. P. Pasolini, *Comizi d'Amore* (documentary, 1964); Reading: selections from *The Lonely Mirror: Italian Perspectives on Feminist Theory*; D. Forgacs and S. Gundle, "Practices of the Self. Intimacy, Sexuality, Sport, Fashion," [on Canvas]

March 21. Discussion of P. P. Pasolini, *Teorema* (film, 1968) - Discussion post due

March 22-30 Spring break

Week 10 March 31-April 2-4. Topic: Law/Crime (Justice/Injustice)

March 31. Mafia and Politics [lecture, MR]; Readings: A. Stille, "Excellent Cadavers..."; Materials: Ricky Tognazzi, *Excellent Cadavers* (documentary)

April 2. Gomorrah/Camorra [discussion]. Readings: R. Saviano, selection from *Gomorrah*

April 4. Discussion of P. Sorrentino, *Il Divo* (film, 2008) - Discussion post due

Week 11 April 7-9-11. Form/Content (Fashioning/Disguising)

April 7. Mr. B. [lecture, MR]. Readings: E. Degrada, "Television and Its Critics: A Parallel History," ICS, chapter 13; D. Forgacs, "Cultural Consumption," ICS, chapter 15; S. Gundle, "Fame, Fashion and Style," ICS chapter 17; selection from P. Ginsborg, *S. B.: Television, Power and Patrimony* [on Canvas]; selection from B. Severgnini, *Mamma mia* [on Canvas]

April 9. Facciate/Façades [discussion]. Materials: L. Ghirri, *It's Beautiful Here, Isn't It?*; Readings: M. A. Pellizzari, "The Margin of the Frame" [on Canvas]

April 11. Discussion of Nanni Moretti, *Il Caimano* (The Caiman, film, 2006) - Discussion post due

Week 12 April 14-16-18. Italian Film Festival, Cinema Ritrovato on tour at Granoff Center

April 14. Strong Men and Divas: G. E. Vidali, *Spartacus* (1913); Mario Caserini, *Love Everlasting* (1913); Reading: C. Wagstaff, "Cinema," ICS, chapter 12.

April 15. Neo-Realism. R. Rossellini, *Paisà* (1946)

April 16. Modernism. F. Fellini, *La Dolce Vita* (1960) - Discussion post due

Week 13 April 21-23-25. Remembering/Forgetting

April 21. Remembering [lecture, SS]; Materials: V. De Sica, *The Garden of Finzi Contini* (film, 1970); Readings: P. Levi, selection from *Survival in Auschwitz* [on Canvas]; G. Bassani, "A Plaque in via Mazzini," [on Canvas]

April 23. Forgetting [discussion]; Readings:

April 25. Discussion of E. Scola's '43-'97 (film, s.d.); Reading: M. Marcus, "Epilogue: the Holocaust, The Cinema and the *Italian Case* in E. Scola's '43-'97" [on Canvas] - Discussion post due

Week 14 April 28-May 6. Reading period

