

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *FROM DANTE TO BERLUSCONI: WHAT IS AN ITALIAN? - 45305*

*Last update 26-08-2016*

*HU Credits: 4*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: romance and latin american studies*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: Yearly*

*Teaching Languages: English*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Domenico Cangiano*

*Coordinator Email: [cangiano.mimmo@gmail.com](mailto:cangiano.mimmo@gmail.com)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment*

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Manuela Consonni

Dr. Domenico Cangiano

Course/Module description:

*The aim of this course is to investigate which characteristics 'make' an Italian. From Dante to the present day we will analyze how Italians have seen themselves respect to their past, present and future. Through the analysis of literary and theoretical works, movies and first-person accounts, we will explore, therefore, the way in which Italians have theorized themselves.*

*Readings and class discussions will be conducted in English with optional readings in Italian.*

*Once a week (except the first week), every student will have to write a 200-word post about one of the readings assigned that week.*

Course/Module aims:

*To provide students with an overview of one of the most important and foundational place along significant historical and national periods in world history. To develop analytic tools for understanding the relation between historical phenomenon represented by Anti-Semitism and its deep relation with question related to national questions and to the process of modernizations showing how their interaction is the product socio-historical, religious and political changes.*

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

*To master the broad corpus of chosen sources that will be tackled along the course.*

*To describe and to differentiate among the different sources and the different disciplines to which the same sources belong.*

*To enable analyzes, to develop critical questions, to recognize the different genres of corpus of study.*

*To compare texts by different authors and from different genres.*

*To criticize, evaluate, interpret the scientific articles of the different authors and to explain their meaning in the context of the discussion.*

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Attendance requirements(%):

100

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, class discussions, presentations, final home exam*

Course/Module Content:

*Introduction: Italy, a Country of 'Paper'*

*November 2: Glory*

- Giacomo Leopardi, *To Italy*, in *The Poems of Leopardi*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1923.
- Giacomo Leopardi, *On Dante's Monument*, in *The Poems of Leopardi*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1923.
- N. Costa-Zalessow, *Italy as a Victim: A Historical Appraisal of a Literary Theme*, in *"Italica"*, XLV, 1968.

*Unit 1 Italian Character:*

*November 9: Dante*

- Dante, *excerpts from Divine Comedy*, New York: Knopf, 1995, *Inferno XXXIII*.
- Stefano Jossa, *Politics vs. Literature. The Myth of Dante and the Italian National Identity*, in *Dante in the Long Nineteenth Century*, Oxford: 2012.

*November 16: Dante II*

- Dante, *excerpts from Divine Comedy*, New York: Knopf, 1995, *Purgatorio VI*.
- C. T. Davis, *excerpts from Dante's Italy and other Essays*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1984.

*November 23: "Italy is a Geographic Expression"*

- Francesco Petrarca, *excerpts from Canzoniere*, Manchester: Carcanet, 2000, *Sonetti CXXVIII and CXLVI*

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- N. Costa-Zalessow, *The Personification of Italy from Dante through the Trecento*, in *"Italica"*, LXVIII, 1991, 3.

#### *November 30: Allegories of the Domination*

- Lodovico Ariosto, excerpts from *Orlando Enraged* XVII.

- Vincenzo da Filicaia, *Sonetto all'Italia*, Wellington, 1985.

#### *December 7: Guicciardini*

- Francesco Guicciardini, excerpts from *The History of Italy*, New York: Macmillan, 1979.

- Francesco De Sanctis, *The Man of Guicciardini*, in *The Renaissance from an Italian perspective*, Ravenna: Longo, 2014.

#### *December 14: Machiavelli*

- Niccolò Machiavelli, excerpts from *The Prince*, Waiheke Island: Floating Press, 1992-2011.

- Francesco De Sanctis, excerpts from *History of Italian Literature*, New York: Brace & Co., 1931.

#### *December 21: Guicciardini and Machiavelli*

- Felix Gilbert, excerpts from *Machiavelli and Guicciardini; politics and history in sixteenth century Florence*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1965.

#### *December 28: Characters of Italians*

- Giuseppe Baretti, excerpts from *Account of the Manners and Customs of Italy*, London: T. Davies, 1768.

#### *January 4: Allegories of the Revolt*

- Vittorio Alfieri, excerpts from *Life*, Boston: James. R. Osgood, 1877.

- Vittorio Alfieri, *Bruto II*, in *The Tragedies of Vittorio Alfieri*, Westport: Greenwood

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Press, 1970.

### *January 11 and 18: Revolt and Revolution*

- Ugo Foscolo, *Last Letters of Jacopo Ortis*, London: Esperus, 2002.
- Emilio Gentile, excerpts from *La Grande Italia: the Myth of the Nation in the twentieth Century*, Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 2009.

### *January 25: Risorgimento I*

- Discussion of the movie *Noi credevamo (We Believed)*

### *March 1: Risorgimento II*

- Giuseppe Mazzini, excerpts from *The duties of man and other essays*, London, New York: Dutton, 1955.
- Giacomo Leopardi, excerpts from *Discourse of an Italian on Romantic Poetry*.

Optional: - Alfredo Oriani, excerpts from *La lotta politica in Italia*, Bologna: Cappelli, 1969.

### *Unit 2 'Bel Paese'*

#### *March 8: ...ou l'Italie*

- Madame de Staël, excerpts from *Corinne, or, Italy*, New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 1987.
- Giacomo Leopardi, excerpts from *The war of the mice and the crabs*, Portland: International Scholarly Book Service, 1974.

#### *March 15-22: I Promessi Sposi*

- Alessandro Manzoni, excerpts from *The Betrothed*, London, Penguin, 1972.

#### *April 19: A textbook*

- Edmondo De Amicis, *Cuore (The heart of a boy)*, London: Dufour, 1986.

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#### *April 26: The Pinocchio Effect*

- Carlo Collodi, *Pinocchio* (an English translation)
- S. Stewart-Steinberg, excerpts from *The Pinocchio Effect*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

#### *May 3: The Great Disillusion*

- Giacomo Leopardi, *The Broom*, in *The Poems of Leopardi*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1923.
- Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, excerpts from *The Leopard*, New York: Pantheon, 1960.

#### *May 10: The Emergence of Nationalism*

- Richard Webster, excerpts from *Industrial imperialism in Italy, 1908-1915*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1975.
- Luigi Pirandello, excerpts from *The old and the young*, London: Chatto & Windus, 1928.
- Emilio Gentile, excerpts from *La Grande Italia: the Myth of the Nation in the twentieth Century*, Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 2009.
- Gioacchino Volpe, excerpts from *History of the Fascist Movement*, in *A Primer of Italian Fascism*, Lincoln, London: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.

#### *May 17: Past and Future*

- Giovanni Pascoli, *Italy*, in *Selected Poems*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1993.
- Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, *Futurists Manifestos*, in *Fascism*, London: Thames and Hudson 1973.
- Benito Mussolini, 'Trenchocracy,' in *Fascism*, Oxford, New York, Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Roberto Farinacci, *The War as the Midwife of a New Italian People*, in *Fascism*,

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Oxford, New York, Oxford University Press, 1995.

May 24: War (N. B. Student's day. No classes. Please, watch the movie)

- Movie: *La Grande Guerra* (The Great War).

Optional: - Mario Isnenghi, excerpts from *Il mito della Grande Guerra*, Bologna: il Mulino, 2007.

### Unit 3 Made in Italy

#### June 7-14: Fascism and Resistance

- Giuseppe Antonio Borgese, *Goliath: The March of Fascism*, New York, The Viking Press, 1937.

- Giovanni Gentile, *Manifesto of the Fascist Intellectuals*.

- Benedetto Croce, *Manifesto of the Anti-Fascist Intellectuals*.

- Antonio Gramsci, *What is Man?*, in *Fascism, anti-fascism and the resistance in Italy*, Lanham, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2004.

#### IN-CLASS PRESENTATION

#### June 21: Dopoguerra

- Pier Paolo Pasolini, excerpts from *The Poetics of Heresy*, Saratoga: Anma Libri, 1982

#### IN-CLASS PRESENTATION

#### June 28: The Great Beauty

- Discussion of the movie *La grande bellezza* (The Great Beauty)

#### Required Reading:

- Texts and readings will be provided by the Professors

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Additional Reading Material:

*Recommended Texts*

- *Claudia Baldoli, A History of Italy, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire; New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.*
- *Matteo Di Gesù, Una nazione di carta, Bologna: Il Mulino, 2013*

*Films*

- *Mario Monicelli, La grande guerra (The Great War), 1959*
- *Mario Martone, Noi credevamo (We believed), 2010*
- *Paolo Sorrentino, La grande bellezza (The Great Beauty), 2013*

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 25 %*

*Presentation 20 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 20 %*

*Project work 15 %*

*Assignments 0 %*

*Reports 20 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 0 %*

*Other 0 %*

Additional information:

*None*