

Contemporary Italian and European History

3 credits

Part A - Italy in the Making: from Risorgimento to Fascism

Teacher responsible: Prof. Arianna Arisi Rota

Department of Political and Social Sciences (arisi@unipv.it)

10 hours

DESCRIPTION:

This module aims at taking students to the inspiring and lively backstage of a Nation in the making, when thousands of men and women in the Italian peninsula engaged their lives in conspiracy, barricades and battlefields to achieve independence. From the epic narrative of the Risorgimento in action to the rise of Fascism, passing through the disrupting experience of WWI which actually ended the Long Italian 19th Century, key moments and dynamics in the case-study of Italian politics and society will be examined on the base of selected readings from most recent scholarly research, as well as literary and visual sources. The time of hope and the time of deception, of energy and disorientation will be revisited from the point of view of protagonists and icons as well as of obscure people whose voice and emotions have been brought back to us by unceasing archive research.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of the module students will be 1) familiar with key passages and protagonists of the Italian Nation-building process; 2) familiar with main chronology and categories of Italian 19th-20th Century history, and with the top-down and bottom-up shaping of national memory and identity; 3) able to appreciate historical continuities and changes on the long term and to apply them to a national case.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Selected readings lists and class materials will be provided for each lecture and discussion introduced and encouraged by the teacher aiming at intense levels of class interactivity.

FINAL EVALUATION:

Final evaluation will be based on active participation in class and an assessed essay to be discussed during an oral exam.