

200 Level Course

## CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN AND EUROPEAN HISTORY

### PART A: ITALY IN THE MAKING: FROM *RISORGIMENTO* TO FASCISM

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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 on a European and transnational scale to the rise of Fascism, passing through the disrupting experience of WWI which actually ended the Long Italian 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

This year **4 units** are scheduled as **in class lectures** while **1 unit** will consist in a **guided tour of the Museum for the History of the University of Pavia** focusing the linkage Nation-building & Science: by the means of objects, memorabilia and documents in display, students will be introduced to the Italian contribution to the advancement of global knowledge, 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

#### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of the module students will be 1) familiar with key passages and protagonists of the Italian Nation-building process in a European and transnational perspective; 2) familiar with main chronology and categories of Italian 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century history, and with the top-down and bottom-up shaping of national memory and identity rituals; 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 unit and discussion introduced and encouraged by the teacher aiming at good levels of class interactivity. Assigned readings consists of primary and secondary sources in the subject area. The standard format is large lecture allowing for discussion by students.

## FINAL EVALUATION:

Final grade will be based on 1) active participation in class during both part A and B of this course; 2) final written exam, which will cover contents of both part A and B of the course.

40% In class Participation; 60% Final written exam

## Syllabus Part A

Weekly readings will be selected from the following list (texts are available for students' consultation in a folder at the Vistarino Palace):

- D. Laven, L. Riall (eds), *Napoleon's Legacy. Problems of Government in Restoration Europe*, chapter 3 (State and Society in Post-Napoleonic Italy, by M. Meriggi)
- S. Patriarca, L. Riall (eds), *The Risorgimento Revisited. Nationalism and Culture in Nineteenth-Century Italy*, chapters 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9
- Modern Italy* vol. 19, no 1 2014, special issue on *The Italian Risorgimento: transnational perspectives*, Introduction and articles by L. Riall, C. Sorba, M. Meriggi
- M. Isabella, *Rethinking Italy's Nation-Building 150 Years Afterwards: the New Risorgimento Historiography*, in *Past and Present*, no. 217, Nov. 2012
- R. Forlenza, B. Thomassen, *Resurrections and rebirths: how the Risorgimento shaped modern Italian politics*, *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, vol. 22, 2017, issue 3
- E. Gentile, *La Grande Italia: The Myth of the Nation in the Twentieth Century*, part one and two
- M. Lyons, *The writing culture of ordinary people in Europe c.1860-1920*, chapters 7, 8, 9
- War Letters (Italy), *International Encyclopedia of the First World War* [https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-onlinenet/article/war\\_letters\\_italy](https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-onlinenet/article/war_letters_italy) (by C. Stiaccini)
- P. Piredda (ed.), *The Great War in Italy. Representation and Interpretation*, chapter by F. Caffarena, *Armed with Pen and Paper*

Additional material which can be consulted for the Nation-Building & Science section:

M. Monti, R. Cockerham, C. Redi, *Pavia: a stroll through a scientific city*, Ibis, 2018

Supplemental primary written and visual sources will be distributed by the teacher and commented with the students.