This course will explore modern Italy with an emphasis on the social and cultural history of the period 1860-1945. We will examine how men, women, and children experienced political and economic processes like unification, industrialization, urbanization, colonialism, the rise of socialism and fascism, and the two world wars. We will pay particular attention to the place of gender, class, and race in the cultural discourses of both the liberal period following unification and the fascist dictatorship of the interwar period. The course will place the Italian experience within the framework of more general European historiographical debates on national identity and state-building, gender and the family, class relationships, legal definitions of crime and sexual deviance, anti-semitism, regionalism (northern/southern Italy), the origins of fascism, and fascist culture. Novels and films will complement monographic studies as the basis for discussion.

Class requirements include book reviews (1-2 pages each) of the assigned readings (30%); a historiographical paper of 10-12 pages (30%); and oral presentations and class participation (40%). Readings emphasize the most current contributions to modern Italian social and cultural history; we will look at them as models applicable to the history of other European and non-European societies. Required readings are in paperback; others are available at the Graduate Center Library or the New York Public Library.

**Required Readings:**


Syllabus:

8/31: Introduction: Historiography of Modern Italy

9/7: Unification and national identity
Reading: Riall, Garibaldi
Reports: Davis, John, Conflict and Control (Humanities Press, 1988)
Hughes, Steven, Crime, Disorder, and the Risorgimento (Cambridge Univ., 1994)
Patriarca, Silvana, Numbers and Nationhood: Writing Statistics in Nineteenth-Century Italy (Cambridge Univ., 1996)

9/14: The “Southern Question”
Reading: (choose one)
Schneider, Jane, ed., Italy’s Southern Question”: Orientalism in One Country (Berg, 1998)
Petrukiewicz, Marta, Latifondium (Univ. of Michigan, 1996)
Lupo, Salvatore, History of the Mafia (Columbia Univ., 2011)
Nelson Moe, The View from Vesuvius (Univ. Calif., 2006)

9/21: Family and Sexuality
Reading: Willson, Perry, Women in Twentieth-Century Italy
Reports: Kertzer, David, Sacrificed for Honor: Italian Infant Abandonment and the Politics of Reproductive Birth Control (Beacon, 1993)
Gibson, Mary, Prostitution and the State (Rutgers Univ., 1886)
Ipsen, Carl, Italy in the Age of Pinocchio: Children and Danger in the Liberal Era (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006)
Schneider, Jane and Peter Schneider, Festival of the Poor: Fertility Decline and the Ideology of Class in Sicily (Arizona, 1996)

10/5: Nation building in Liberal Italy
Reading: (choose one)
Cardoza, Anthony, Aristocrats in Bourgeois Italy (Cambridge Univ., 1997)
De Grand, Alexander, The Hunchback’s Tailor: Giovanni Giolitti and Liberal Italy (Praeger, 2001)
Gibson, Mary, Born to Crime: Cesare Lombroso and the Origins of Biological Criminology (Praeger, 2002)
Hughes, Steven, Politics of the Sword: Dueling, Honor and Masculinity in Modern Italy (Ohio State Univ., 2007)
Malatesta, Maria, ed., Society and the Professions in Italy (Cambridge Univ., 1995)
Quine, Maria Sophia, *Italy's Social Revolution: Charity and Welfare from Liberalism to Fascism* (Palgrave, 2002)

10/12: Colonialism and Race
Reading: Ben Ghiat, Ruth, and Mia Fuller, *Italian Colonialism*
Giuliette, Aaron, *Race Theories in Fascist Italy* (Routledge, 2002)
Zuccotti, Susan, *The Italians and the Holocaust: Persecution, Rescue, and Survival* (Univ. of Nebraska, 1996)

10/19: The Novel as a Historical Source
Reading: (choose one)
Aleremo, Sibilla, *A Woman* (1906)
Levi, Carlo, *Christ Stopped at Eboli* (1946)
Silone, Ignazio, *Bread and Wine* (1936)
Verga, Giovanni, *The House by the Medlar Tree (I Malavoglia)* (1881)

10/26: Fascist Culture
Reading: Falasca-Zamponi, Simonetta, *Fascist Spectacle*
Berezin, Mabel, *Making the Fascist Self* (Cornell Univ., 1997)
Gentile, Emilio, *The Sacralization of Politics in Fascist Italy* (Harvard Univ., 1996)

11/2 Life Under Fascism
Reading: (choose one)
De Grazia, Victoria, *How Fascism Ruled Women* (California, 1992)
Ebner, Michael, Ordinary Violence in Mussolini’s Italy (Cambridge, 2010)
Ipsen, Karl, *Dictating Demography: The Problem of Population in Fascist Italy* (Cambridge Univ., 1996)
Koons, Tracy, *Believe, Obey, Fight: Political Socialization of Youth in Fascist Italy* (Univ. of North Carolina, 1985)
Willson, Perry, *The Clockwork Factory: Women and Work in Fascist Italy*
(Clarendon Press, 1993)

11/9: Film as a Historical Source

11/16: World War II and Resistance
       Reading: Davis, John, *The Jews of San Nicandro*

11/23: Oral Reports

11/30: Oral Reports
       Historiographical Paper Due

12/7: Oral Reports