

H509: Fascism in Europe, 1914-1945

Spring 2007/ 3 credit hours
M/W 10:30am-11:45am, Sec. 23000 (Grad)
IUPUI/Cavanaugh Hall 235



Instructor: Dan Clasby
Office: Cavanaugh Hall 5035
Office Hours: M/W 9:30am-10:30am and by appointment
E-mail: dclasby@indiana.edu
Phone: 317-278-7761

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class will examine the history of European fascism: its origins, seizure of power, development and institutionalization, its most extreme elements and its defeat. The class will focus mainly on Italy and Germany as case studies but will also examine fascist-style movements and rule in countries like France and Spain, even in Japan. We will look at both primary documents, crafted by those who dreamed up the idea and concept of fascism and by those who practiced it, and a wealth of secondary literature written by modern historians. Bringing these different sources together, we will place everything we think we know about fascism on the table, creating definitions, points of reference and discussion and conclusions about fascism's nature, its history and its legacy.

The course carries both undergraduate and graduate credit. Graduate students have different, and often more challenging, course requirements. Graduate students, in addition to performing at the graduate level in the undergraduate class discussions, will be required to complete supplemental reading assignments, attend graduate seminar discussions (and write book reviews on the seminar readings), write a paper of longer length, and present material to the class on 2 occasions during the semester. Graduate

seminar discussions will broadly reflect topics and themes from class, but we will focus on close reading and in-depth discussion of carefully selected monographs and essays, including bibliographical and historiographical work. Graduate students are not required to complete the undergraduate worksheet assignments, exams or paper. The following syllabus includes a proposed reading schedule for the graduate seminars, a broad bibliography for further reading and a list of required assignments.

REQUIRED TEXTS FOR PURCHASE:

Graduate students should purchase the books included under the undergraduate heading (you will be responsible for completing all undergraduate reading assignments) and will also be required to purchase some of the books listed under the graduate heading. Further information for purchasing graduate texts will be provided (dependent on the books you choose to read for discussion), when topics and presentation assignments for the graduate seminars are settled.

Undergraduate -

1. Stanley Payne, *A History of Fascism, 1914-1945* (text)
2. Aristotle A. Kallis, ed., *The Fascism Reader* (document reader)
3. Michael Burleigh and Wolfgang Ipperman, *The Racial State: Germany, 1933-1945*
4. Victoria De Grazia, *How Fascism Ruled Women: Italy, 1922-1945*
5. Peter Fritzsche, *Germans into Nazis*
6. Carlo Levi, *Christ Stopped at Eboli*

Graduate –

1. Walter Adamson, *Avant-Garde Florence: From Modernism to Fascism*
2. Ruth Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities: Italy, 1922-1945*
3. Ruth Ben-Ghiat, et al., *Italian Colonialism*
4. R.J.B. Bosworth, *The Italian Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives in the Interpretation of Mussolini and Fascism*
5. Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*
6. Günter Grass, *The Tin Drum*
7. Dagmar Herzog, *Sex after Fascism: Memory and Morality in Twentieth-Century Germany*
8. Ian Kershaw, *The Nazi Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation*

ADDITIONAL / SUPPLEMENTARY READING\$ AND LECTURE\$:

Additional readings (and all class lectures) will be available through Oncourse or distributed in class by me. All students should have access to Oncourse as long as they are registered for the class. Oncourse readings and class lectures can be found under the heading, "Syllabus," where either the actual document or a hyperlink to an online source will be available. Due to a lack of space, Oncourse readings and class lectures

will not be available indefinitely. You should therefore print all materials in a timely fashion.

For each graduate seminar graduate students are required to read one (1) “core” reading (each seminar includes at least two (2) “core” readings to be split up among graduate students, depending on topic and interest), two (2) “topic” journal articles (to contextualize overall arguments made in “core” readings), and two (2) book reviews of “core” reading (look for academic book reviews via library databases like *Academic Search Elite/Ebsco* and *JStor* – some journals that regularly include academic book reviews about European fascism are *The American Historical Review*, *The Journal of Modern History*, *The Journal of Modern Italian Studies*, *The Journal of Contemporary History*, *European History Quarterly*, *German Studies Review*, *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, *German History*, among many others).

SYLLABUS:

The syllabus is subject to small changes dependent on circumstance. I will update the version available on Oncourse under the heading, “Syllabus,” as necessary.

CLASS POLICIES:

In general, late work will only be accepted in cases of illness and then only if supported by a note from the student health services or a physician. Unexcused, late book reviews will be docked one third (1/3) of a letter grade per day i.e., an A grade would become an A-, and so forth. The final paper will not be accepted late. If you miss class on the day you present material to our class, you will not be allowed to make up your presentation.

Attendance is absolutely mandatory and simply expected. Unexcused absences will result in a substantially lowered grade! Active participation is 20% of your overall grade. While I generally allow as many as two (2) excused absences from the regular undergraduate course schedule, you will not be allowed to miss our graduate seminars without severe penalty. You will also not be allowed to submit a book review, if you miss the graduate seminar for which the book review is written.

Inform yourself of the university’s policy on plagiarism in the graduate catalog or on the web. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence: anyone caught plagiarizing will be subject to the university’s procedures regarding such an offense. Address all questions concerning the exercises and plagiarism to me before they are due. Go to the following web address for more information:

<http://www.hoosiers.iupui.edu/handbk/handbook.htm>.

You should also inform yourself of the university’s withdrawal policies. It is your responsibility to withdraw from class. I cannot administratively drop you.

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Regular, active participation in the undergraduate class discussions and during our graduate seminars - (20%)

2. Two (2) oral presentations (lectures) during two (2) regular undergraduate classes (to be scheduled) - (10% each = 20% total)

- Each presentation should include approximately 10-15 minutes of PowerPoint lecture and a “lead-in” to one of the questions from the appropriate Worksheet Assignment, in order to facilitate discussion. Be creative and use images, music, etc. to break up student attention. Also include summaries before and after your presentation, so that your points are clear.

3. Three (3) book reviews, 5-7 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point, *Times New Roman* font with one-inch margins) – (10% each = 30% total)

- The book review will discuss the assigned “core” reading in all of the following ways: 1) an introduction of the piece; 2) its place in the broader historiography; 3) summary of the questions and findings of the author; 4) a discussion of sources and methodology; 5) a critical evaluation of the author’s main arguments and overall work, including both positive and negative assessments of the work (assuming there are both).

4. One (1) historiographical paper, 20-25 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point, *Times New Roman* font with one-inch margins) – (30%)

- The historiographical essay should critically assess an important sub-topic within the overall history of European fascism and evaluate the relevant secondary literature on the topic, including the most important contributions to the topic, relevant criticisms and new directions taken by recent works. A list of proposed topics will be given in February.

SCHEDULE:

1. Wednesday, February 7: First Graduate Seminar – Book Review 1 Due

- Core Readings (Choose one):
 - R.J.B. Bosworth, *The Italian Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives in the Interpretation of Mussolini and Fascism*
 - Ian Kershaw, *The Nazi Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation*
- Topic Readings:
 - No topic readings for this graduate seminar
- Book Reviews (Read both):
 - Marla Stone review of Bosworth book in *The American Historical Review* Vol. 114, No. 458 (Sep. 1999), pgs. 1023-1024 – (available in JStor)

- Johnpeter Horst Grill review of Kershaw book in *The American Historical Review* Vol. 92, No. 2 (Apr., 1987), pg. 446 – (available in JStor)

2. Monday, March 5: Second Graduate Seminar – Book Review 2 Due

- Core Readings (Choose one):
 - Walter Adamson, *Avant-Garde Florence: From Modernism to Fascism*
 - Ruth Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities: Italy, 1922-1945*
- Topic Readings (Read both):
 - David D. Roberts, "How Not to Think about Fascism and Ideology, Intellectual Antecedents and Historical Meaning," *Journal of Contemporary History* Vol. 35, No. 2 (Apr., 2000), pgs. 185-211 – (available in JStor)
 - Ruth Ben-Ghiat, "Italian Fascism and the Aesthetics of the 'Third Way,'" *Journal of Contemporary History* Vol. 31, No. 2, Special Issue: The Aesthetics of Fascism (Apr., 1996), pgs. 293-316 – (available in JStor)
- Book Reviews (Find two (2) book reviews about your "core" reading):
 - Be prepared to present the general assessments of the book reviews you read

3. Wednesday, April 25: Third Graduate Seminar – Book Review 3 Due

- Core Readings (Choose one):
 - Ruth Ben-Ghiat, et al., *Italian Colonialism*
 - Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*
 - Dagmar Herzog, *Sex after Fascism: Memory and Morality in Twentieth-Century Germany*
- Topic Readings (Read both):
 - MacGregor Knox, "Conquest, Foreign and Domestic, in Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany," *Journal of Modern History* Vol., 56, No. 1 (Mar., 1984), pgs. 1-57 – (available in JStor)

- Selection from George L. Mosse, *Nationalism and Sexuality: Respectability and Abnormal Sexuality in Modern Europe* (Howard Fertig Reprint Ed., 1997) – (will provide as handout)

- Book Reviews (Find two (2) book reviews about your “core” reading):
 - Be prepared to present the general assessments of the book reviews you read

4. Friday, May 4: Final Paper due by 10:00 am

*** While the schedule for presentations will depend on your choice of topic and also be spread over the semester, all graduate students should have presented once by the end of February**