

Prof. Ruth Ben-Ghiat

G59.1981.002, G57.1981. Spring 2007

Office and Office Hours: Casa Italiana, T and W 2-3 or by appt

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ITALY IN WORLD WAR TWO

Course description

Italy from 1940 to 1945, with a focus on cultural and political responses to war and on how the war has been represented in memory. The course is thematic rather than chronological in nature; our sources include reportage, novels, archival documents, memoirs, and non-fiction and feature film as our sources. Ongoing themes will include the meanings of resistance and collaboration; the problematics of testimony, witnessing, and memory; the impact of war on gender roles and identities; and the representation of violence.

Course materials

The course is conducted in English, but students will find knowledge of Italian essential. Many, if not most, of the films we see have no subtitles, and some readings are available only in Italian. Elio Vittorini's *Uomini e no* and Alberto Moravia's *La ciociara* may be ordered the first week of class from www.internetbookshop.it, or may be consulted on Blackboard. All other course readings are contained in a customized reader, "Italy in World War Two," which can be consulted on Blackboard or purchased from Advanced Copy Center on La Guardia between Bleecker and West 3rd Streets (338-1001). Complete citations for all readings are given on the last page of the syllabus. A * indicates that these readings will be divided among students; a ** means that the reading is not included in the course packet but will be posted on Blackboard at a later point.

Note on Films: Films with an AF call number are available for viewing at Avery Fischer on the 2nd floor of Bobst Library. We will arrange a collective screening at the Casa for other films. All LUCE newsreels and documentaries can be accessed at www.luce.it: go to "archivio storico" then search ("cerca") by typing in the number of the film (given in the syllabus) and then click on "invia ricerca". Scroll to the title (given in the syllabus), click, and choose between modem, dsl and broadband speeds. Mac users may find that the Safari browser works best.

Course grade

Final seminar paper, 80%; class participation, 20%. Seminar papers may be written in either English or Italian and from any disciplinary perspective. Students must meet with me to discuss their paper topics. Class participation is judged by your attention during the seminar and your interventions in class debates. The active participation of every one of you is vital for the success of the seminar.

Schedule of Class Meetings and Readings

- Jan 16** **Introduction**
- Jan 23** **Reflections and Historiographies**
 LaCapra, *History and Memory after Auschwitz*, 8-21, 40-42
 Margalit, *Ethics of Memory*, 48-63
 Bourke, *An Intimate History of Killing*, 1-31
 Bertoldi, *Anni in grigioverde*, 133-140
 Ben-Ghiat, "The Lesser Evil"
- Jan 30** **Fascism and its Wars**
 Knox, "Fascism: ideology, foreign policy, war"
 (overview for those unfamiliar with the history of Fascism)
 Cavallo, *Italiani in guerra*, 51-69
 Calvino, *L'entrata in guerra*, 9-26
 Ben-Ghiat, "Unmaking the Fascist Man," 340-353
 Mussolini, "Popolo Italiano! Corri alle armi..." (1940)
 Rossellini, *Il pilota ritorna* (1942)
- Feb 6** **The Occupation of Greece**
 Santarelli, "Muted Violence: Italian War Crimes in Greece"
 Forgacs, *Angelo's Film* (1999) AF
 Agamben, *Quel che resta di Auschwitz/Remnants of Auschwitz*, 11-40
 Margalit, *Ethics of Memory*, 147-168, 176-182
 **United Nations War Crimes Commission Testimonies
- Feb 13** **The "Slavic Threat" and the Occupation of Yugoslavia**
 **Sluga, "Italian National Identity and Fascism"
 Bendotti, et. al, "'Ho fatto la Grecia, l'Albania, la Jugoslavia...'"
 Capogreco, "Internamento e deportazione dei civili jugoslavi"
 Rodogno, "Italiani brava gente?"
 Testimonies of Izak Itai, Dan Millan, and
 **United Nations War Crimes Commissions testimonies
- Feb 20** **The Home Front: Men and Women, Neighbors and Enemies**
 Lepre, *Le illusioni la paura la rabbia*, 83-94
 * **Cremonini, "L'abbandono, la violenza sessuale, il trauma estremo"
 *Sorcinelli, "War in the Mental Hospitals"
 *Galimi, "I campi di concentramento in Toscana fra storia e memoria"
 De Felice, "Foreword"

Sarfatti, "Characteristics and Objectives of the Anti-Jewish Racial Laws in Italy" (response to De Felice)
 *Capogreco, "L'entrata in guerra dell'Italia e l'internamento degli ebrei stranieri"
 Testimonies of Feri and Zlata Noiman

- Feb 27** **8 September 1943 and the Passage to Civil War**
 Aga Rossi, *Una nazione allo sbando*, 143-168 (historical overview of 8 September)
 Dondi, "La disciplina della violenza..."
 *Pavone, "Le tre guerre"
 *Palla, "Guerre civile o collaborazionismo?"
 Emanuele Caffiero, "Verso il Lager"
 *Bandiera, *Io fui della IX Armata d'Albania*, 9-11, 136-54
 *Natta, *L'altra Resistenza*, 18-27
 **Testimonies of Italian soliders
- Mar 6** **The Prisoner of War Experience**
 Collotti, preface to Natta
 Lorenzon, "Il silenzio dei reduci"
 Testimonies of Giovanni Araldi and Erminio Montanari
 Natta, *L'altra Resistenza* (1954), xxiii-xxxiv, 45-64, 134-141
 *Alpini, *Baracca otto. I giorni della fame* (1943-45), 5-29
 *Lo Conte, *Vita nel lager 1243* (1943-45), excerpts
- Mar 13** **Spring break**
- Mar 20** **The Ambiguities of Liberation: Southern Italy**
 Frezza, "Cassino 1943-44: la memoria"
 Holmes, "The Italian Job: Five Armies in Italy"
 Moe, "Naples '44/'Tammurriata Nera"
 Rossellini, *Paisa*, Sicily and Naples episodes
 Ellwood, 49-70
- Mar 27** **Rome Open City: Germans and Italians**
 *Reading on Nazi occupation of Rome, TBA
 Bravo, "Armed and unarmed"
 Franzinelli, *Delatori*, 231-241, 246-249
 Camerini, *Due lettere anonime* (1945)
- Apr 3** **The Resistance and its Histories**
 Pezzino, "The Italian Resistance between History and Memory"
 Perry, *Il partigiano santo martire*

Vittorini, *Uomini e no* (1945)
 Cavani, *La donna nella Resistenza* (1963)
 Rossellini, *Paisa*, Po episode
Guest speaker: Alan Perry, Gettysburg College

- Apr 10 **The Republic of Salò****
 Bistarelli, "Sconfitti due volte. Le associazioni dei reduci di Salò"
 Fraddosio, "Donne nell'esercito di Salò"
 Isnenghi, "La guerra civile nella pubblicista di destra"
 Pasolini, *Salò*
- Apr 17 **The Holocaust in/and Italy****
 Picciotto, "The Shoah in Italy"
 Bernard-Donals and Glejzer, *Between Witness and Testimony*, 39-47
 Blanchot, *The Writing of the Disaster*, 14-18, 81-84
 *Debenedetti, *16 ottobre 1943* (1944) (with preface by Moravia)
 Testimony of Olga di Veroli
- Apr 24 **The Ambiguities of Liberation:
 Italians and the Allies in Central and Northern Italy****
 Lepre, 135-150
 Alan Perry, "Pippo volava di sera"
 Absalom, "Allied escapers and the *contadini* in occupied Italy"
 Rosati, "La memoria dei bombardamenti"

Papers are due in my box on the 4th floor on May 2