

## **Prof. Patrick Cavaliere**

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“Matteo Ricci” Visiting Scholar - Department of Law at the University of Macerata

### **Italian Fascism: A Thematic History (15 Hours)**

This history course is designed to provide students in law, political science, sociology, and cultural studies with a multi-disciplinary thematic historiographical overview of the history of Italian Fascism. This course will provide a critical and comprehensive overview of the origins of Fascism, the movement's coming to power, and the eventual establishment of the first “totalitarian state” of the modern era. Considerable effort will also be made to survey the nature and doctrines of Fascism, as well as its workings, in order to understand and measure its revolutionary influence on other fascist authoritarian movements that emerged in the period between the two World Wars, such as in National Socialist Germany, Austria, France, Romania, Hungary, Spain and in Latin America. A major underlying theme will be to explore how the Italian Fascist regime systematically employed propaganda and popular culture to manipulate symbolic imagery and to fashion a specific political consciousness that radicalized and revolutionized the politics of an era. Driving the course will be the attempt to give an explanation and interpretation of Fascism that locates its place in contemporary history and takes account of the recent controversial historiographical debates on the nature of the phenomenon. Breaking away from the traditional 'chronological' exposition of facts and events that has long dominated the study of modern European history, each lecture in this course will focus on the notions of change and continuity, revolution and stability, and will cover specifically such topics as: political extremism through the modern era; elitism and the marginalization of the masses; the complex institutional weave of industrialization, military modernization and imperialism; the nation-state as personality; the sacralization of culture; nationalism; revolutionary socialism; totalitarianism; biological racism; the decline of civil society; the concept of 'total war'; and the re-birth of Europe and the emergence of a integrated European polity. In addition to the lectures, whenever possible, the course will make use of feature and documentary films during regularly scheduled class hours to investigate how filmmakers have undertaken the task of “memory re-construction,” and it will explore the factors that both contributed and complicated the process of achieving a “collective reckoning” amongst all Europeans of the responsibilities they bore for the crimes of the various fascist regimes born in the first half of the twentieth century. Taken together, the lectures, and the instructor-led class discussions will attempt to gauge the extent to which historians of the post-Fascist eras attempted to construct and advance interpretations designed to meet the needs of a devastated and defeated society embarking on a path of rebirth and renewal.

Monday 16 October 2017, h. 15-18

SESSION I / Benito Mussolini and Italian Fascism: Preliminary Thoughts

LECTURE 1 / Fascism: A Search for Definition & Interpretation

LECTURE 2 / Mussolini and the Rise of Italian Fascism

LECTURE 3/ The Organization of Totalitarian Power: Regime Building & the Alternate Modernity

Monday 23 October 2017, h. 15-18

SESSION II / Fascism as Developmental Dictatorship and Secular Religion

LECTURE 4 / Mass Politics and Conformism: The Orchestration of Consensus

LECTURE 5 / Revolutionary Myths and the Cult of Personality

LECTURE 6 / The Poverty of Culturalism

Monday 30 October 2017, h. 15-18

SESSION III / Italian Fascism and German National Socialism: Paradigmatic Considerations

LECTURE 7 / Fascist Italy and National Socialist Germany in Comparative Historical Perspective

LECTURE 8 / Fascist Racism: Ideological Compromise and Doctrinal Tragedy  
LECTURE 9 / Palingentic Ultra-Nationalism as Discourse and Politics

Monday 6 November 2017, h.15-18

SESSION IV / Mussolini and Hitler: The Brutal Friendship and the Road to the Apocalypse

LECTURE 10 / Fascism and Total War  
LECTURE 11 / Fascism, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust  
LECTURE 12 / Anti-Fascist Resistance

Monday 13 November 2017, h.15-18

SESSION V / Representations of Fascism in Republican Italy

LECTURE 13 / Constructing Memory and Anti-Memory During the Years of Defascistization  
LECTURE 14 / Representations of Fascism and the Resistance  
LECTURE 15 / The Legacy of Historic Fascism in the Contemporary Political World