

History 41060/51060/71060: Comparative Fascism

Spring 2014

W, 5:30pm-8:30pm

301 Bowman Hall

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Hours: W, 1:00-4:00, or by appointment

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This course examines the theories and practices of fascist movements and regimes in Europe. In order to understand this pivotal episode in the history of the twentieth century, we will examine fascism from a variety of perspectives. Readings and discussions are based on historiographical and critical analyses. While we will attempt to cover the most important European countries that experienced fascism, the course is organized thematically instead of geographically. We will seek to uncover the political, cultural and social dimensions of fascism by considering a broad range of questions, such as: the definitions and origins of fascism; the social roots of fascist movements; issues of resistance and accommodation; attitudes toward gender and class; fascism as imperialism and racism; and the religious dimensions of fascism. Owing to the vast literature on this subject, some aspects of its history will of necessity be excluded. Students should have a working knowledge of modern European history.

Grade Breakdown and Schedule:

	% of grade	Length	Due date
Readings précis	20	4-6 pages	weekly
Research proposal	5	1 page	March 19
Research paper	40	20-30 pages	May 7
Class participation	35	—	—

To be Purchased:

Robert Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism* (New York, 2004);

Richard Bessel, ed., *Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany* (Cambridge, 1996);

Coursepack (CP), available at Wordsmiths.

Papers: Graduate students will be expected to write assignments at the upper page limits (6 pages for weekly précis, 30 for research papers), undergraduates at the lower page limits (4 and 20, respectively). Your professor will also keep in mind qualitative differences between graduates and undergraduates when grading these assignments. For the research paper, a proposal and bibliography are due by Wednesday, November 3. Note that all assignment deadlines are firm. A penalty of 3 marks per day applies to late work. Essays will of course be marked for content and analysis, but also for grammar, clarity of writing and organization.

Précis: each student will write five précis over the course of the semester. Since there are about 25 students enrolled, that means about eight précis will be submitted per week. Together, the five précis will constitute 20% of your overall grade. These are to be analytical response pieces to the readings, not descriptive summaries. Students will volunteer the week before, and email their précis to the group the Monday before class.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Students are expected to do their own research, to acknowledge all sources used, and to write their essays *in their own words*. Students uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism should consult with me. They should also read the relevant section of the University Calendar. Depending on the severity of the offense, penalties for plagiarism can include receiving a “0” on the assignment in question, a failing grade for the course as a whole, or initiating proceedings to have you expelled from Kent State.

Participation: Every student is responsible for contributing to conversation each week. Students will use their précis of each week’s assigned readings to provide analysis (not overview) and identify major issues for discussion. Your weekly précis should be circulated by email to your fellow students no later than the Monday before class.

Policies: Attendance and informed participation at all class meetings is not just strongly recommended, but required. Those who contribute less to class discussion will necessarily face a lower mark for participation. Failure to read assignments ahead of time will seriously affect your overall performance. If you show up late for a class, enter the room as discretely as possible. If you miss any class it is your responsibility to make sure that you make up for lost ground. If you are not prepared to think critically about our subject, you will have a hard time doing well.

Students with Disabilities: University policy 3342-3-18 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through the Student Accessibility Services (330-672-3391, or visit <http://www.registrars.kent.edu/disability/> for more information on registration procedures).

Class Schedule:

Week One (January 15): Introduction

Film: *Vincere*

Week Two (January 22): Defining Fascism

Bernt Hagtvet and Reinhard Kühnl, “Contemporary Approaches to Fascism: A Survey of Paradigms,” in Stein Larsen et al. (eds.), *Who Were the Fascists: Social Roots of European Fascism* (Oslo, 1980), 26-51 (CP).

Robert Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism* (New York, 2004), 3-23, 206-220.

Gilbert Allardyce, "What Fascism Is Not: Thoughts on the Deflation of a Concept," *American Historical Review* 84 (1979): 367-98 (CP).

Week Three (January 29): Ideological Origins

Robert Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism* (New York, 2004), 24-54.

Zeev Sternhell, *The Birth of Fascist Ideology: From Cultural Rebellion to Political Revolution* (Princeton, 1994), 36-91 (CP).

Roberto Vivarelli, "Interpretations of the Origins of Fascism," *Journal of Modern History* 63 (1991): 29-43 (CP).

Week Four (February 5): Fascism's Social Base

Robert Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism* (New York, 2004), 55-118.

Adrian Lyttelton, "The 'Crisis of Bourgeois Society' and the Origins of Fascism," in Bessel, ed., *Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany*, 12-22.

Bernd Weidbrod, "The Crisis of Bourgeois Society in Interwar Germany," in Bessel, ed., *Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany*, 23-39.

Week Five (February 12): Reactionary or Modern?

Jeffrey Herf, *Reactionary Modernism: Technology, Culture and Politics in Weimar and the Third Reich* (Cambridge, 1984), 1-17, 189-235 (CP).

Mark Roseman, "National Socialism and Modernisation," in Richard Bessel, ed., *Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany: Comparisons and Contrasts* (Cambridge, 1996), 197-229.

Walter Adamson, "Modernism and Fascism: The Politics of Culture in Italy, 1903-1922," *American Historical Review* 95 (1990): 359-90 (CP).

Carl Levy, "From Fascism to 'Post-Fascists': Italian Roads to Modernity," in Bessel, ed., *Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany*, 165-96.

Week Six (February 19): The Working Classes

Tobias Abse, "Italian Workers and Italian Fascism," in Bessel, ed., *Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany*, 40-60.

Alf Lüdtke, "The 'Honor of Labor': Industrial Workers and the Power of Symbols under National Socialism," in David Crew (ed.), *Nazism and German Society 1933-1945* (London, 1994), 67-109 (CP).

Tilla Siegel, "What was the Attitude of German Workers? Reflections on Recent Interpretations," in Bessel, ed., *Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany*, 61-77.

Week Seven (February 26): Building a Consensus

Shelley Baranowski, *Strength through Joy: Consumerism and Mass Tourism in the Third Reich* (Cambridge, 2004), 1-10, 162-98 (CP).

Detlev Peukert, *Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity, Opposition and Racism in Everyday Life* (New Haven, 1987), 67-80, 187-96 (CP).

Victoria de Grazia, *The Culture of Consent: Mass Organisation of Leisure in Fascist Italy* (Cambridge, 1981), 151-86 (CP).

Week Eight (March 5): Fascist Masculinity

Barbara Spackman, *Fascist Virilities: Rhetoric, Ideology, and Social Fantasy in Italy* (Minneapolis, 1996), 1-33 (CP).

Klaus Theweleit, *Male Fantasies, vol. 1: Women, Floods, Bodies, History* (Minneapolis, 1987), 3-123 (CP).

Week Nine (March 12): Fascism and Women

Gabriele Czarowski, "'The Value of Marriage for the *Volksgemeinschaft*': Policies Towards Women and Marriage under National Socialism," in Bessel, ed., *Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany*, 94-113.

Victoria de Grazia, *How Fascism Ruled Women: Italy, 1922-1945* (Berkeley, 1992), 1-17, 41-76 (CP).

Francine Muel-Dreyfus, *Vichy and the Eternal Feminine: A Contribution to a Political Sociology of Gender* (Durham, 2001), 1-11, 171-203 (CP).

Week Ten (March 19): Imperial Expansion

MacGregor Knox, "Expansionist Zeal, Fighting Power, and Staying Power in the Italian and German Dictatorships," in Bessel, ed., *Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany*, 113-33.

Michael Geyer, "Restorative Elites, German Society and the Nazi Pursuit of War," in Bessel, ed., *Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany*, 134-64.

Eric Jennings, *Vichy in the Tropics: Petain's National Revolution in Madagascar, Guadeloupe, and Indochina, 1940-1944* (Stanford, 2001), 1-30 (CP).

Week Eleven (April 2): Fascism and Racism

E. M. Robertson, "Race as a factor in Mussolini's Foreign Policy in Africa and Europe," *Journal of Contemporary History* 23 (1988): 37-58 (CP).

Gene Bernardini, "The Origins and Development of Racial Anti-Semitism in Fascist Italy," *Journal of Modern History* 49 (1977): 431-53 (CP).

Radu Ioanid, "The Holocaust in Romania: The Iasi Pogrom of June 1941," *Contemporary European History* 2 (1993): 119-48 (CP).

John Connelly, "Nazis and Slavs: From Racial Theory to Racist Practice," *Central European History* 32 (1999): 1-33 (CP).

Week Twelve (April 9): Fascism as Political Religion

Emilio Gentile, *The Sacralization of Politics in Fascist Italy* (Cambridge MA, 1996), 1-18, 53-79, 132-52 (CP).

George Mosse, *The Nationalization of the Masses* (New York, 1975), 73-99, 183-216 (CP).

Richard Steigmann-Gall, "Was National Socialism a Political Religion or a Religious Politics?" in Michael Geyer and Hartmut Lehmann (eds.), *Religion und Nation, Nation und Religion* (Göttingen, 2004), 386-408 (CP).

Week Thirteen (April 16): Resistance and Accommodation

Philip Morgan, "'The Years of Consent'? Popular Attitudes and Forms of Resistance to Fascism in Italy, 1925-1940," in Tim Kirk and Anthony McElligott (eds.), *Opposing Fascism: Community, Authority and Resistance in Europe* (Cambridge, 1999), 163-79 (CP).

Helen Graham, "Spain 1936: Resistance and Revolution – the Flaws in the Front," in Kirk and McElligott, eds., *Opposing Fascism*, 63-79 (CP).

Philippe Burrin, *France under the Germans: Collaboration and Compromise* (New York, 1996), 1-63 (CP).

Ian Kershaw, "Resistance without the People?," in *The Nazi Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation* (London, 2000), 183-217 (CP).

Week Fourteen (April 23): Neo-Fascism

Walter Laqueur, *Fascism: Past, Present, Future* (Oxford, 1996), 93-144 (CP).

Martin A. Lee, *The Beast Reawakens* (London, 1997), 191-234 (CP).

Week Fifteen (April 30): The Politics of Memory

Alf Lüdtke, “‘Coming to Terms with the Past’: Illusions of Remembering, Ways of Forgetting Nazism in West Germany,” *Journal of Modern History* 65 (1993): 542-72 (CP).

Henry Rousso, *The Vichy Syndrome: History and Memory in France since 1944* (Cambridge MA, 1991), 1-11, 98-131, 168-216 (CP).