This course will examine the philosophical origins, theoretical characterizations and historical and political evolution of fascist political movements in Europe. The course is comparative in method and scope concentrating on the common characteristics of all fascist regimes and neo-fascist political movements. Historically, the course will focus on the paradigmatic cases of the interwar period—Mussolini’s Italy and Hitler’s Germany—and, especially, on the more unorthodox case of Francoist Spain, the only Fascist regime that survived WWII and into the Cold War era. Finally, we will survey the emergence of neo-fascist movements in contemporary Europe seeking to identify how they resemble, and differ from, their past precursors.

The course is divided into three parts. Part I studies the philosophical roots of fascist ideologies in the European reactionary tradition while contextualizing its emergence as a political ideology, socio-political movement and regime type under the specific historical conditions existing in interwar Europe. Part II studies the most salient policies and historical evolution of the fascist political regimes that came into being during the XXth century in Italy, Germany and, Spain. In part III, we will reflect on the rebirth of neo-fascism in Europe, the continuing aesthetic attraction exerted by fascism in European politics and society and the lasting influence of fascism on certain democratic state policies such as interest representation (corporatism).

**Desired Outcomes**

- Understanding of the philosophical roots of fascist ideology in European reactionary political philosophy.

- Learn about the specific historical circumstances under which Fascist regimes emerged in Europe during the interwar period.

- Study the most important, or paradigmatic, examples of historical fascism: Italy and Germany.

- Understand the historical and political evolution of the Franco regime and how it resembles and differs from the two interwar paradigmatic examples of Italy and Germany.
• Analyze contemporary neo-fascist movements in Europe and compare them to the paradigmatic interwar period examples.

- **Analytical paper 1 (5-7 pages)** 20%
  (Philosophical origins of fascism as an ideology)

- **Analytical paper 2 (5-7 pages)** 20%
  (Rise to power of Fascists in one of our 3 paradigmatic cases)

- **FINAL PAPER (5-7 pages)** 20%
  (Analysis of a contemporary neo-fascist party or movement)

- **Oral presentation** 20%
  (Defense of theses in the three papers)

- **Reading presentations (2 per student)** 10%

- **Participation** 10%

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component will result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.

**Grading Policy**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website ([http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html](http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html)) for further information.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see [Study Away and Disability](#).

**Attendance Policy**

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.
Unexcused absences affect students’ grades: In classes meeting twice a week, a 1% deduction from the student’s final course grade occurs on the occasion of each unexcused absence.

Absences are excused only for illness, religious observance, and emergencies.

**Illness:** For a single absence, students may be required to provide a doctor’s note, at the discretion of the Assistant Directors of Academics. In the case of two consecutive absences, students must provide a doctor’s note. Exams, quizzes, and presentations will not be made up without a doctor’s note.

**Religious Observance:** Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their instructor and the Academic Office in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If exams, quizzes, and presentations are scheduled on a holiday a student will observe, the Assistant Directors, in coordination with the instructor, will reschedule them.

**Please note:** if you are unable to attend class, you are required to email your professors directly and notify them.

**Late Submission of Work**

All assignments turned in late will receive a letter grade deduction per day (eg. A deducted to an A- if assignment is turned in one day late)

**Plagiarism Policy**

At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community.

**Plagiarism:** presenting others’ work without adequate acknowledgement of its source, as though it were one’s own. Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:

- a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks
- an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another’s work
- the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by others as though it were one’s own
- submitting evaluations of group members’ work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member
- altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.
- using language translation software.
For further information, students are encouraged to check www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

Required Text(s)
Course reader available as pdf files in NYU classes

Required Texts available via NYU Classes


Franco, Francisco (Writer) & Saenz de Heredia, Jose Luis. Raza. (Spain: Cancilleria de Consejo de la Hispanidad, 1942).


Lannon, Frances. The Spanish Civil War. (UK: Osprey, 2002).

Larssen, Steig; Hagtvet, Bernt; Myklebust, Jan. *Who were the Fascists? Social Roots European Fascism*. (Oslo: Universitatsforlaget, 1980).


Riefenstahl, Leni (Producer and Director). The Triumph of the Will. (Germany: Reichparteitag Film, 1935).


**Session 1**
January 28th

Introduction of professor and students and syllabus review

**Session 2**
February 2nd

European reactionary political philosophy

Readings:


**Session 3**
February 4th

European reactionary political philosophy

Readings:


***Reading presentations start Session 4 after end of add/drop period***

**Session 4**
February 9th

European reactionary political philosophy

Readings:

Session 5
February 11th
European reactionary political philosophy

Readings:


Session 6
February 16th
Italian “elite” thinkers as theoretical precursors of proto-fascism

Readings:


***Analytical paper 1 due***

Session 7
February 18th
The ideological birth of proto-fascism and fascism in Italy

Readings:


Session 8
February 23th
The ideological birth of proto-fascism and fascism in Italy

Readings:


Full text in:  
http://www.worldfuturefund.org/wffmaster/Reading/Germany/mussolini.htm

Session 9
Part II: Theoretical characterizations of fascism and the three
February 25th
paradigmatic cases (Italy, Germany and Spain)

**Defining fascism theoretically: Social roots**

Readings:

**Session 10**
March 1st

**Defining fascism theoretically and empirically: Alternative political and social explanations**

Readings:

**Session 11**
March 3rd

**Defining fascism theoretically and empirically: Alternative political and social explanations**

Readings:
Larssen, Steig; Hagtvet, Bernt; Myklebust, Jan. *Who were the Fascists? Social Roots of European Fascism*. (Oslo: Universitatsforlaget, 1980). pp. 752-783

**Session 12**
March 8th

**The historical experience of fascism: Italy**

Readings:

**Session 13**
March 10th

**The historical experience of fascism: Italy**

Readings:
Larssen, Steig; Hagtvet, Bernt; Myklebust, Jan. *Who were the Fascists? Social Roots of European Fascism*. (Oslo: Universitatsforlaget, 1980). pp. 312-350
Session 14
March 15th
The historical experience of fascism: Germany
Readings:
DVD scenes from: Riefenstahl, Leni (Producer and Director). *The Triumph of the Will.* (Germany: Reichparteitag Film, 1935).

Session 15
March 17th
The historical experience of fascism: Germany
Readings:
Larssen, Steig ; Hagtvet, Bernt ; Myklebust, Jan. *Who were the Fascists ? Social Roots of European Fascism.* (Oslo : Universitatsforlaget, 1980). pp. 258-312

Session 16
March 29th
The historical experience of fascism: Germany
Readings:

Session 17
March 31st
The historical experience of fascism: Spain
Readings:

Session 18
April 5th
The historical experience of fascism: Spain
Readings:
Lannon, Frances. The Spanish Civil War. (UK : Osprey, 2002). pp. 68-80 ; 84-93

Session 19
April 7th
The historical experience of fascism: Spain
Readings:
DVD scenes from: Franco, Francisco (Writer) & Saenz de Heredia, Jose Luis. *Raza.* (Spain : Cancilleria del Consejo de la Hispanidad, 1942).
***Analytical Paper 2 Due***

**Part III: Neofascism**

Session 20
April 12th

**Neofascism**

Readings:


***Discussion of guidelines and topics for Final Research paper***

Session 21
April 14th

**Neofascism**

Readings:


Session 22
April 15th (FRIDAY)

**Neofascism**

Readings:


Session 23
April 19th

**The Aftermath of Fascism**

Readings:

DVD scenes from Chavarri, Jaime (Director). El Desencanto (Elias Querejeta Prod., 1976)

Session 24
April 21st

**The Aftermath of Fascism**

Readings:

DVD scenes from BBC. Arena: The Life and Times of Luchino Visconti (BBC, 2003).

Session 25
April 26th

**Oral Presentations**

Session 26
April 28th

**Oral Presentations**
**Session 27**
May 3rd

Oral Presentations

***Final Research Paper due***

**Session 28**
May 5th

FINAL SESSION: WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT PAST AND PRESENT FASCISM

Suggested Co-curricular Activities