FASCISM IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Class code
HIST-UA 9290 Fascism in Comparative Perspective

Instructor Details
Professor: Francisco Seijo
Email: fsm3@nyu.edu
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 11:45-12:00

Class Details
Monday through Thursday 12:00-13:30

Prerequisites
N/A

Class Description
This course will examine the intellectual 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 the Cold War era. Finally, we will survey the emergence of neo-fascist movements in contemporary Europe and elsewhere 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:
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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.

Assessment will be based on the following components:

- **Analytical paper 1** 25%
  (Philosophical origins of fascism as an ideology)

- **Analytical paper 2** 25%
  (Compare single policy area of the 3 paradigmatic fascist regimes)

- **FINAL EXAM** 25%
  (Analysis of a contemporary neo-fascist party or movement)

- **Oral presentation** 15%
  (Defense of theses in papers 1, 2, 3)

- **Participation** 10%

Grading Policy

Attendance Policy

Every professor at NYU Madrid outlines the participation requirements governing her/his course. Class participation includes attendance and compliance with classroom etiquette (i.e. showing up on time, being attentive, no eating during class, no emailing during class, no cell phone use, and no disruptive behavior). A high score for class participation is awarded to those students who contribute to class discussion in a significant way.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are unable to attend class, you are required to email your professors directly. Academic work can only be made up if you have an official medical excuse (i.e. a doctor’s note).
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 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

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**Required Texts**

Course reader available as pdf files in NYU classes


FASCISM IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

D’Annunzio, Gabrielle; D’Ambris, Alceste. The Charter of Carnaro or Fiume Constitution. (Milano: Comite Nazionale di Azione Sindicale Dannunziana, 1920)


Franco, Francisco (Writer) & Saenz de Heredia, Jose Luis. Raza. (Spain: Cancilleria del 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 of European Fascism. (Oslo: Universitatsforlaget, 1980).


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

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Session 1

May 24

Part I: Intellectual history of Fascism as a political ideology

European reactionary political philosophy

Readings:


Session 2

May 25

European reactionary political philosophy

Readings:


Session 3

VIEWING OF FILM “RAZA” WRITTEN BY FRANCISCO FRANCO
May 26

**Session 4**

FIELD TRIP VISIT “EL PARDO”

May 27
**(FRIDAY)**

**Session 5**

Italian “elite” thinkers as theoretical precursors of fascism

May 30

Readings:


**Session 6**

Italian proto-fascism and the birth of fascist ideology in Italy

May 31

Readings:

D’Annunzio, Gabrielle ; D’Ambris, Alceste. _The Charter of Carnaro or Fiume Constitution_. (Milano : Comite Nazionale di Azione Sindicale Dannunziana, 1920


Full text in: [http://www.worldfuturefund.org/wffmaster/Reading/Germany/mussolini.htm](http://www.worldfuturefund.org/wffmaster/Reading/Germany/mussolini.htm)

**Session 7**

June 1

Part II: Theoretical characterizations of fascism and the three paradigmatic cases (Italy, Germany and Spain)

**Defining fascism theoretically: Social roots**

Readings:

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1-36


Session 8
June 2

Defining fascism theoretically and empirically: Alternative political and social explanations

Readings:


ANALYTICAL PAPER 1 DUE

Session 9
June 6

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. 752-783

Session 10
June 7

The historical experience of fascism: Italy

Readings:


Session 11
June 8

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 12
June 9

The historical experience of fascism: Germany

Readings:
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DVD scenes from: Riefenstahl, Leni (Producer and Director). *The Triumph of the Will*. (Germany: Reichparteitag Film, 1935).

Session 13
June 13

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 14
June 14

The historical experience of fascism: Germany

Readings:


Session 15
June 15

The historical experience of fascism: Spain

Readings:


Session 16
June 16

The historical experience of fascism: Spain

Readings:

Lannon, Frances. The Spanish Civil War. (UK: Osprey, 2002). pp. 68-80; 84-93

Session 17
June 20

The historical experience of fascism: Spain

Readings:


Session 18
June 21

Part III: Neofascism

Neofascism

Readings:
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VISIT TO THE PALACIO DE EL PARDO