

# NYU Madrid

HIST-UA.9290

## Comparative Fascism: Italy, Germany, Spain

### Instructor Information

- **Professor:** Francisco Seijo
- Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 17:00-17:30/20:40-21:10
- E-mail: [fsm3@nyu.edu](mailto:fsm3@nyu.edu)

### Course 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 right wing populist parties and movements in the USA and contemporary Europe seeking to identify how they resemble and differ from the interwar fascist cases.

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 rise of extreme right populist movements in USA and Europe, the continuing aesthetic attraction exerted by fascism in European and American politics and society and the lasting influence of fascism on salient democratic state system features such as systems of interest representation (corporatism).

- Co-requisite or prerequisite: N/A
- Tu-Thu: 17:30-20:40

### Desired Outcomes

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Understand the philosophical roots of fascist ideology in European reactionary political philosophy.
- Learn about the specific economic, political and cultural circumstances under which Fascist regimes emerged in Europe during the interwar period.
- Be familiar with the historical evolution of 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 extreme right movements in Europe and the USA and compare them to the paradigmatic interwar period examples.

## Assessments Components

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

Assessment will be based on the following components:

- **Analytical paper 1**  
(Philosophical origins of fascist ideologies)
- **Analytical paper 2**  
(Comparison of single policy area of the 3 paradigmatic fascist regimes)
- **Analytical paper 3**  
(Analysis of a contemporary extreme right populist movement)
- **Oral presentation**  
(Defense of theses in papers 1, 2, 3)
- **Participation**  
(Participation in class debates)

## Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

<b>Assignments/Activities</b>	<b>% of Final Grade</b>
Analytical paper 1	25%
Analytical paper 2	25%
Analytical paper 3	25%
Oral presentation	15%
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.

## Letter Grades

## Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>A</b>	4.0	100 – 93
<b>A-</b>	3.7	92 – 90
<b>B+</b>	3.3	89 – 87
<b>B</b>	3.0	86 – 83
<b>B-</b>	2.7	82 – 80
<b>C+</b>	2.3	79 – 77
<b>C</b>	2.0	76 – 73
<b>C-</b>	1.7	72 – 70
<b>D+</b>	1.3	69 – 67
<b>D</b>	1.0	66 – 60
<b>F</b>	0.0	59 – 0

# Course Schedule

## Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading
Session 1, May 28 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Introduction of students and professor. Syllabus review and course objectives.</p> <p><u>Part I: Intellectual history of Fascism</u></p> <p><b>European reactionary political philosophy</b></p>	<p>Voltaire, <i>Candide</i>, A Dual-Language Book, translated and with an Introduction by Shane Weller (New York: Dover Publications, 1993)</p> <p>De Maistre, Joseph, <i>The Works of Joseph de Maistre</i>. Selected, translated and introduced by Jack Lively (New York : MacMillan, 1965). pp. 62-63, 65-71, 126-129</p>
Session 2, May 30 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>European reactionary political philosophy</b></p>	<p>Berlin, Isaiah, Joseph de Maistre and the Origins of Fascism. In : <i>The Crooked Timber of Humanity</i> (New Jersey : Princeton University Press, 1990). pp. 1-26</p> <p>Sorel, Georg. <i>Reflections on Violence</i>. (New York: Huebsch, 1908). pp. 1-21</p> <p>Nietzsche, Friedrich. <i>The Will to Power</i>. (New York: Random House, 1967). pp. 1-24</p> <p>Porter, J. "Nietzsche's theory of the will to power". In Pearson, K.A. ed, <i>A Companion to Nietzsche</i>. (London: Wiley Blackwell, 2005).</p> <p>Nietzsche, Friedrich. <i>The Will to Power</i>. (New York: Random House, 1967). pp. 1-24</p> <p>Porter, J. "Nietzsche's theory of the will to power". In Pearson, K.A. ed, A</p>

		Companion to Nietzsche. (London: Wiley Blackwell, 2005).
Session 3, June 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Italian “elite” thinkers as theoretical precursors of proto-fascism</b>	<p>Mosca, Gaetano. <i>The Ruling Class</i>. (New York : McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1939). pp. 50-51, 332-335, 477-479, 482, 491-494.</p> <p>Michels, Robert. <i>Political Parties</i>. (Ontario : Batoche Books, 2001). pp. 342-356.</p> <p>Pareto, Vilfredo. <i>The Mind and Society</i>. (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1935). pp. 51-59</p> <p>Mosca, Gaetano. <i>The Ruling Class</i>. (New York : McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1939). pp. 50-51, 332-335, 477-479, 482, 491-494.</p> <p>Michels, Robert. <i>Political Parties</i>. (Ontario : Batoche Books, 2001). pp. 342-356.</p> <p>Pareto, Vilfredo. <i>The Mind and Society</i>. (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1935). pp. 51-59</p>
Session 4, June 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The ideological birth of proto-fascism and fascism in Italy</b>	<p>D’Annunzio, Gabrielle ; D’Ambris, Alceste. <i>The Charter of Carnaro or Fiume Constitution</i>. (Milano : Comite Nazionale di Azione Sindicale Dannunziana, 1920).</p> <p>Hughes-Hallet, L. “The Pike”. <i>The Pike</i>. (London: Fourth Estate, 2013).</p> <p>D’Annunzio, Gabrielle ; D’Ambris, Alceste. <i>The Charter of Carnaro or Fiume Constitution</i>. (Milano : Comite Nazionale di Azione Sindicale Dannunziana, 1920).</p> <p>Mussolini, Benito (with Gentile, Giovanni). <i>The Doctrine of Fascism</i>. (Virginia: World Future Fund, 1932).</p> <p>Evola, Julius. “Difference between higher and lower views on racism however meaningless today”. <i>The</i></p>

		Path of Cinnabar. (London: Arktos Media, 2009)
Session 5, June 11 <sup>th</sup>	<p><u>Part II: Theoretical characterizations of fascism and the three paradigmatic cases (Italy, Germany and Spain)</u></p> <p><b>Defining fascism theoretically: Alternative theoretical definitions</b></p>	<p>Stromberg, Roland. Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. (UK: Prentice Hall, 1991). pp. 1-36</p> <p>Weber, Max. <i>From Max Weber: Essays on Sociology</i>. (UK: Oxford University Press, 1958). pp. 363-386</p> <p><b>*** Analytical paper 1 due ***</b></p>
Session 6, June 13 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>Defining fascism theoretically: Social roots</b></p>	<p>Payne, Stanley. <i>A History of Fascism 1914-1945</i> (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1995). pp. 3-19</p> <p>Moore, Barrington. <i>Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy</i>. (New York: Beacon Press, 1967). pp. 433-453</p>
Session 7, June 18 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>Italy-Germany</b></p>	<p>Payne, Stanley. <i>A History of Fascism 1914-1945</i> (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1995). pp. 80-129</p> <p>Payne, Stanley. <i>A History of Fascism 1914-1945</i> (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1995). pp. 147-176</p> <p>Larssen, Steig; Hagtvet, Bernt; Myklebust, Jan. <i>Who were the Fascists? Social Roots of European Fascism</i>. (Oslo: Universitetsforlaget, 1980). pp. 258-312</p> <p>Bruggemeier, Franz; Cioc, Mark; Zeller, Thomas. <i>How Green were the Nazis? Nature, environment and Nation in the Third Reich</i>. (Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2005). pp. 1-18; 243-257</p>

Session 8, June 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Spain</b>	<p>Blinkhorn, Martin. <i>Fascism and the Right in Europe</i> (London, Longman, 2000). pp. 418-435</p> <p>Preston, Paul. <i>The Politics of Revenge: Fascism and the Military in Spain</i>. (UK: Routledge, 1995). pp. 126-160</p> <p>Lannon, Frances. <i>The Spanish Civil War</i>. (UK : Osprey, 2002). pp. 68-80 ; 84-93</p> <p><b>***Analytical Paper 2 Due***</b></p>
Session 9, June 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Contemporary right wing populisms: Intellectual roots of Trumpism and social support</b>	<p>Orwell, George. "James Burnham and the Managerial Revolution". (Adelaide: University of Adelaide, 1946)</p> <p>Francis, S.T. "Why race matters". American Renaissance Web, 1994.</p> <p>Kriesi, H; Grande, E.; Lachat, R.; Dolezal, M.; Bornschieer, S.; Eosfrey, T. Globalization and the transformation of the national political space: Six european countries compared. (European Journal of Political Research 45: 921–956, 2006).</p>
Session 10, June 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Oral presentations</b>	
Session 11, July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>SESSION TO BE SCHEDULED</b>	<b>FIELD TRIP TO PALACIO DEL PARDO (FRANCO's RESIDENCE)</b>
Session 12, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>NO FINAL EXAM SESSION</b>	<b>***Analytical Paper 3 Due***</b>

### Required Co-curricular Activities

None

### Suggested Co-curricular Activities

Visit to the Valley of the Fallen

## Course Materials

### Required Textbooks & Materials in NYU Classes

Berlin, Isaiah, Joseph de Maistre and the Origins of Fascism. In : *The Crooked Timber of Humanity* (New Jersey : Princeton University Press, 1990).

Blinkhorn, Martin. *Fascism and the Right in Europe* (London, Longman, 2000).

Bruggemeier, Franz ; Cioc, Mark ; Zeller, Thomas. *How Green were the Nazis ? Nature, environment and Nation in the Third Reich*. (Ohio : Ohio University Press, 2005).

D'Annunzio, Gabrielle ; D'Ambris, Alceste. *The Charter of Carnaro or Fiume Constitution*. (Milano : Comitè Nazionale di Azione Sindacale Dannunziana, 1920).

De Maistre, Joseph, *The Works of Joseph de Maistre*. Selected, translated and introduced by Jack Lively (New York : MacMillan, 1965).

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

Gregor, James. *The Search for Neofascism*. (New York : Cambridge University Press, 2006).

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 : Universitetsforlaget, 1980).

Michels, Robert. *Political Parties*. (Ontario : Batoche Books, 2001).

Moore, Barrington. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. (New York : Beacon Press, 1967).

Mosca, Gaetano. *The Ruling Class*. (New York : McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1939).

Mussolini, Benito (with Gentile, Giovanni). *The Doctrine of Fascism*. (Virginia: World Future Fund, 1932).

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *The Will to Power*. (New York: Vintage Books, 1968).

Pareto, Vilfredo. *The Mind and Society*. (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1935).

Payne, Stanley. *A History of Fascism 1914-1945* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1995).

Preston, Paul. *The Politics of Revenge: Fascism and the Military in Spain*. (UK: Routledge, 1995).



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

Sorel, Georg. *Reflections on Violence*. (New York: Huebsch, 1908).

Stromberg, Roland. *Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. (UK: Prentice Hall, 1991).

Visconti, Luchino (Producer and Director). *The Damned*. (Rome: Warner Brothers, 1969).

Voltaire, *Candide*, A Dual-Language Book, translated and with an Introduction by Shane Weller (New York: Dover Publications, 1993)

Weber, Max. *From Max Weber : Essays on Sociology*. (UK : Oxford University Press, 1958).

## Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](https://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](https://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](https://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](https://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

## Course Policies

### Attendance Policy

Study abroad during the summer 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. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.

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 late work will be penalized with 2 points per delayed day of submission unless there is a valid, documented, excused absence.

#### Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

*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 [NYU Policies and Guidelines on Academic Integrity](https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities/study-away.html) (about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html)*

## Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto:mosescsd@nyu.edu)) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. For more information, see [Study Away and Disability](https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities/study-away.html) (<https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities/study-away.html>).

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