Bismarck called Italy merely “a geographic expression.” Beginning at the end of the eighteenth century, however, Italian unity became one of the most pressing concerns in modern Europe. By Bismarck’s time, Italy emerged as a united country with ambitious plans for its future. This course will trace the fate of the nation and state as it navigated the challenges of the modern world.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1) Relate the major events of Italian History over the past two centuries, with special attention to national unification, fascism, the world wars, and European integration.
2) Develop a familiarity with Italian literary and cultural traditions as they were expressed and experienced in the modern era.
3) Assess the nature of Italy’s place in Europe and the world.

**Required Reading (available at the bookstore):**

Denis Mack Smith, *Modern Italy: A Political History* (Yale University Press, 1997)


Giuseppe di Lampedusa, *The Leopard*

Alberto Moravia, *The Conformist*

**Film:**

*Roma, città aperta (Rome, Open City, dir. Roberto Rossellini, 1945)*

**Grades:**

Your final grade will be calculated from your performance in class, your score on the midterm and cumulative final examinations, and the quality of your required paper.
Class participation will count for 20 percent of your final grade. Noticeable absence, frequent tardiness, cases of unexcused early departure, rudeness, and disruptive behavior will seriously harm your score in this category. Absolute attendance, frequent participation, doing all required readings, making incisive comments, and good manners will seriously help it. Anything said in class, furthermore, can appear on your examination.

Mobile phone use in a polite, interactive atmosphere is distracting, discourteous, and unnecessary. ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS AND ARE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE CONFISCATION IF USED. Text messaging is also very annoying and strictly prohibited. The instructor realizes that mobile phones may be useful in the event of an emergency. If you anticipate an emergency on a particular class day, stay home.

The midterm (MARCH 26) and cumulative final examinations (TBA) will each count for 30 percent of your final grade. PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO OPPORTUNITY to make up this examination unless I am informed of your absence IN ADVANCE. If you do not inform me of your absence IN ADVANCE, you will automatically receive a failing grade. Makeup examinations will in any case be COMPLETELY DIFFERENT from the examination given to the rest of the class, and so there will be no advantage in taking one after everyone else.

The 5-7 page required paper, due on May 14, 2010, will account for 20 percent of the final grade. The paper will be an interpretative review of Giuseppe di Lampedusa’s The Leopard and Alberto Moravia’s The Conformist. Both books were written in the 1950s, but deal with very different eras in Italian History. Nevertheless, they contain noteworthy similarities. Your work MUST address one of the themes listed on the final page of the syllabus.

Our required film, Rossellini’s Roma, città aperta (Rome, Open City, 1945) will add to your understanding of Italy toward the end of World War II. The film is eligible for short (maximum one page) extra credit assignments, due within a week of the screening.

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other type of academic dishonesty is unacceptable at AUB and will result in a failing grade.

Topics:

Week I: February 17 and 19

An Introduction: From Rome to Napoleon

Modern Italy, ix-11

Week II: February 24 and 26

February 24: Napoleonic Italy and Aftermath

February 26: NO CLASS
Modern Italy, 11-16

Week III: March 3 and 5

Toward National Unity

Modern Italy, 17-55

Lampedusa, The Leopard

Week IV: March 10 and 12

Toward A European Power

Modern Italy, 58-153

The Leopard

Week V: March 17 and 19

Anxiety, Insecurity, and the March to World War I

Modern Italy, 157-255

Bosworth, Mussolini’s Italy, 1-36

Week VI: March 24 and 26

March 24: World War I

Modern Italy, 255-276

Mussolini’s Italy, 37-92

March 26: MIDTERM EXAM

Week VII: March 31 and April 2

March 31: The Agony of Peace

Modern Italy, 255-308

Mussolini’s Italy, 93-120

April 2: NO CLASS
Week VIII: April 7 and 9

Mussolini!

*Modern Italy*, 311-334

*Mussolini’s Italy*, 121-149

Week IX: April 14 and 16

April 14: Fascism in Power

*Modern Italy*, 337-380

*Mussolini’s Italy*, 150-276

Moravia, *The Conformist*

Week X: April 21 and 23

Required Film: *Roma, città aperta* (*Rome, Open City*, dir. Roberto Rossellini, 1945)

Moravia, *The Conformist*

Week XI: April 28 and April 30

Italy and World War II

*Modern Italy*, 389-414

*Mussolini’s Italy*, 277-497

Week XII: May 5 and 7

End of Mussolini and Post-War

*Modern Italy*, 417-434

*Mussolini’s Italy*, 498-572

Week XIII: May 12 and 14

Growth, Democracy, and European Integration

*Modern Italy*, 434-451
PAPERS DUE: MAY 14

Week XIV: May 19 and 21

1968, Corruption, Terrorism

Modern Italy, 455-467

Week XV: May 26 and 28

May 26: The New World Order: Berlusconi, Europe, Post-Cold War

Modern Italy, 467-497

TBA: FINAL EXAM (IN CLASS)

Paper Topics

In reference to Lampedusa’s The Leopard and Moravia’s The Conformist, you must craft an interpretive essay around one of the themes listed below. Use only the books in question and your impressive knowledge of modern Italy.

- On Adapting to Your Surroundings
- On Morality
- On Life and History