Fall 2019

Taught in English

ITALIAN 415 Topics in Italian Studies: Italy and the Muslim World
Meets-with ISLAM 490.001 Advanced Topics in Islam
Karla Mallette MW 2:30-4 #30917 / #33141
In this course, we will study the long, entangled history that links Italians and Muslims, in the Italian peninsula and beyond. We’ll start with the history of Sicily as Islamic state and Italian trade with Muslim cities throughout the Mediterranean. The course will cover the Crusades in the eastern Mediterranean as conflict and as a period of intensified cultural and commercial exchange. And we’ll study contemporary topics like the migration crisis that has brought hundreds of thousands of Muslim migrants to Italian shores; mosques in Italy; films made by Italians about the Muslim Mediterranean; and made by Muslims about Italy; and Italian clothing designers’ collections of hijabs and modest clothes for the modern Muslim woman.

ITALIAN 422 Politics and Literature: Global Fascism: Legitimizing State Violence Across the Atlantic
Meets-with INTLSTD 470.001 International Studies: Special Topics
Giulia Riccò MW 11:30 am-1 pm #28115 / #33176
How can an ideology that seems to fit so perfectly the needs of a particular national experience adapt to many different historical, social, and economic contexts? In its global approach to fascism, this course aims to show that since its theorization in the early twentieth century, this ideology has produced similar trends in state violence in disparate geographical spaces. This class studies not only fascist violence but also the discursive practices employed by military personnel and far-right politicians in their efforts to legitimize the security apparatus of the fascist state. We will begin the class by defining fascism and looking at how it was precisely through a set of cultural practices that it was able to implement its powerful ideology in Italy, Spain, Portugal, and across the Atlantic in Brazil, Argentina, and the US. We will read two novels and we will watch films that show the conditions under which fascism was developed. We will also visit the University of Michigan Special Collections to look at the actual propagandistic fascist material. Ultimately, if fascism has been able to re-appear throughout the 20th and 21st century it is because of its capacity to distort reality in convincing ways. We will look closely at how fascism frequently succeeds in making political repression and state violence seem necessary and legitimate.

Taught in Italian

ITALIAN 270 Language in Action I: Letteratura della migrazione
Jim Carter MWF 9-10 am #30722 HU distribution
A partire dagli anni ’90, la migrazione in Italia ha portato un contributo decisivo alla cultura nazionale, ma l’ha anche contestato, spingendo il dibattito pubblico verso una prospettiva transnazionale. In questo corso, studieremo l’impatto della migrazione sulla letteratura italiana, prendendo in esame romanzi contemporanei scritti in italiano da autori nati oltre i confini della penisola. Con l’aiuto della teoria culturale e dei diaspora studies, faremo considerazioni del rapporto tra lingua e territorio, scrittura e identità, e altro. Saranno praticate le quattro competenze essenziali per l’apprendimento della lingua: lettura, scrittura, ascolto, parlato.

ITALIAN 275 Multimedia Language and Culture I: Imagination, Invention, Fantasy
Roberto Mosciatti TTh 10-11:30 am #32549
When are fantasies more real than reality? When do dreams and imagination help us to unlock secrets in the world around us? In this course, we will explore fairy tales, works of fantasy and science fiction, films and novels that present an alternate consciousness. We’ll discuss the potential that creativity and imagination have to reshape self-perception and help us discover concealed truths.

ITALIAN 340 Contemporary Italian Culture: Rock’n Revolution
Roberto Mosciatti TTH 1-2:30 pm #28553 HU distribution
The potential that music embodies to inspire, awaken, evoke higher purposes, and elicit unknown sociopolitical practices is often underestimated. Italian 340/ Rock’n Revolution will address this by focusing on the alternative harmonies and melodies that were experimented starting from 1970 in Italy, where a very prolific and innovative progressive rock movement developed. Through an interdisciplinary approach employing songs, novels, and movies the course will examine the evolution of the Italian society of the last five decades, so as to consider how sounds, images, and words are potentially able to undermine established modes of control, also giving birth to new and more desirable forms of coexistence.