

## SUMMER TERM @ UNIPD 2021

### Detailed course description

#### 1 - Italian Fascism: History of a Dictatorship

This course aims to introduce 2nd and 3rd year Bachelor and 1st year MA students to the history of contemporary Italy, with particular reference to the history of fascism in Italy.

During the course the main elements that characterize the history of Fascist Italy will be presented, with particular reference to the reasons for the origins of this political movement, the role of violence as a political tool, but also with attention to the impact on the country, its society and politics, and, more generally, the reasons for the success of this ideology and this political experience in Europe between the two wars (and beyond).

By means of on-line teaching workshops we will introduce students to the sources and methodologies useful for studying these themes, but we will also reflect on the memory of this regime on the Italian territory (for example by looking at the monuments and architecture of the ventennio) and students will participate in a series of group projects. The winners of this module will be invited to an on-site follow-up with visits to the archives, museums and libraries they worked on at a distance.

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## 2- Science and Economy in the Age of Galileo

This course aims to introduce 2nd and 3rd year Bachelor and 1st year MA students to the history of modern Italy, with particular regard to the scientific and economic context of the peninsula.

During the course the main elements that characterise the history of modern Italy from an intellectual, economic and scientific point of view will be presented. In particular, we will discuss how the first "globalisation" of the modern age (1450-1650) manifested a growing interest in nature with the aim of mapping, quantifying and regulating its symbolic and material systems. Botanical, cartographic and bibliographical knowledge will in particular be addressed in order to understand this unity between science, economy and power, also in the light of the legacy that the classical world exerted on scientists, merchants, diplomats and inventors during the Renaissance. The Italian peninsula at the time of Galileo offers a vibrant case study to investigate all these aspects.

Through online teaching workshops we will introduce students to the sources and methodologies useful for studying these issues and students will participate in a series of group projects. The winners of this module will be invited to an on-site follow-up with visits to the archives, museums and libraries they worked on at a distance.

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### 3- Urban Culture and Politics in the Age of Giotto

During the course the main elements characterising the history of medieval Italy from a cultural and political point of view will be presented.

We will discuss in particular how the height of the Communal Age (12th and 13th centuries) manifested a growing interest in participation in the political life of cities, accompanied by the production of new documentary forms (statutes and land registers) that aimed to regulate and map and classify its inhabitants. At the same time, the communal cities experienced strong internal political clashes and developed public forms of exclusion of entire political groups through the expulsion of individuals from the citizen body. This was the phenomenon of the 'bandits' whose iconographic representation was vividly introduced in the paintings that frescoed the public seats of power. The case of Mantua is a spectacular example. Its depiction of 'The man with the bag around his neck' contributed to the formation of a shared way of thinking about evil. The languages of power developed in this period will then be discussed through an itinerary that examines some of the characteristic aspects of the urban civilisation of the early Middle Ages: the city's identity expressed in the monumentalisation of public space (government palaces, squares, but also city walls) in the conscious recovery of Antiquity, as well as the use of the same space to punish those guilty of crimes against public order. Finally, the original political thought underlying the struggles of factions, but also that which led to the elaboration of the figure of the tyrant as an enemy of the citizens' freedom. The maturation of urban political experience and culture in Italy was then manifested through multiple perspectives: between instances of 'democratisation' but also criteria of citizenship. The Italian peninsula in Giotto's time offers a paradigmatic case study to investigate all these aspects.

Through online teaching workshops we will introduce students to the sources and methodologies useful for the study of these issues and students will participate in a series of group projects. The winners of this module will be invited to an on-site follow-up with visits to the archives, museums and libraries they worked on at a distance.

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