ITALIAN COLONIALISM

Description
This course examines Italian colonialism from the late 19th century through the end of empire during World War Two, and the postcolonial consequences of Italian occupations. Our sources include travel reportage and fictional writing, documentary and fiction films, and historical works as we explore the meanings of colonialism within Italian history and culture; colonial racial policies and gender identities; and the role of mass and high culture in diffusing imperial ideologies.

Course materials
All course readings are contained on the NYU Classes site.

Films
All Luce newsreels and documentaries can be accessed at www.archivioluce.it under its “Archivio storico.” Search by subject or by the number or title of a specific film.

Course grade
Final seminar paper, 70%, short paper, 10%, class participation, 20%. Seminar papers may be written in either English or Italian and from any disciplinary perspective. Students must meet with me to discuss their paper topics. Class participation is judged by your attention during the seminar, your interventions in class debates, and your brief presentations. Since weekly readings are often divided up among students, the active participation of everyone is vital for the success of the seminar. Every week or two students are expected to do brief presentations on Luce newsreels or documentaries relevant to that week’s topic, and a 5pp paper on a colonial film, novel or travel reportage, or group of documentaries. Topics of this shorter paper will also be discussed with me.

Schedule of Meetings and Readings
*indicates readings to be divided among students

Sept 14 Introduction

Sept 21 Histories and Theories
Fuller, Moderns Abroad, 23-38
Labanca, “Studies and Research on Fascist Colonialism,”
(optional, as background)
*Verdicchio, “The Preclusion of Postcolonial Discourse in Southern Italy”
*Agnew, “The Myth of Backward Italy in Modern Europe”
Cooper, Colonialism in Question, 3-32
Sept 28  Legacies of Defeat: Adwa  
Larebo, *The Building of an Empire*, 1-19  
Triulzi, “Adwa: From Monument to Document”  
Finaldi, “Italy’s Scramble for Africa”  
Film: *Adwa* (Haile Garama, 1999)

Oct 5  Colonialism in the Liberal Period  
Fuller, *Moderns Abroad*, 39-53  
Spackman, *Fascist Virilities*, 49-66  
Marinetti, *Mafarka the Futurist/Mafarka il futurista*, chapter 1  
*Barrera, “The Construction of Racial Hierarchies”  
*Segrè, *The Fourth Shore*, 3-32

TUESDAY Oct 13 (Meets on Monday Schedule)  
**Contexts: Fascist Italy**  
Mussolini, “Imperialismo fascista”  
Pinkus, “Shades of Black in Advertising and Popular Culture”  
*Ben-Ghiat, *Fascist Modernities*, 123-140.  
Polezzi, “Imperial Reproductions”

Oct 19  Libya in the 1920s  
Atkinson, “Embodied Resistance, Italian Anxieties…”  
Ben-Ghiat, “The Conquest of Libya and the Assault on the Nomadic”  
Ahmida, *The Making of Modern Libya*, 1-9, 135-144  
Film: *Kif tebbi* (Mario Camerini, 1928)

Oct 26  The Occupation of Ethiopia  
Sbacchi, “Poison Gas and Atrocities in the Italo-Ethiopian War”  
Bekerie, “African Americans and the Italo-Ethiopian War”  
Mussolini, “Dopo lo scontro di Ual-Ual,” and “Saluto ai legionari dell’Africa Orientale”  
D’Anunzio, “Al legionario volontario per la Guerra d’Africa”

Nov 2  Race and Governance: the Case of Ethiopia  
Barrera, “Mussolini’s Colonial Race Laws”  
Fuller, *Moderns Abroad*, 197-213  
Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*, 45-76  
*La fondazione della nuova Addis Abeba* (1939)

Nov 9  Men and Women in the Colonies  
Bellassai, “The masculine mystique”  
Matard-Bonucci, “Italian Fascism’s Ethiopian Conquest…”  
*Pickering-Iazzi, “Mass-Mediated Fantasies” 197-212 only  
*Lombardi-Diop, “Pioneering Female Modernity”  
Tobino, *Il deserto della Libya/The Deserts of Libya*, 155-169, 206-220  
Giornale Luce B1371 *Campeggio pre-coloniale* (1938)
Nov 16  Colonialism and Representation: Photography
Special Guest: Maaza Mengiste
Mignemi, “Fotografia e ideologia coloniale”
Campassi and Sega, “Uomo bianco, donna nera.”
Power Point of images from Maaza Mengiste’s personal collection

Nov 23  World War II Occupations: Greece

Nov 30  World War II Occupations: Yugoslavia

Dec 7  The End of Empire
Segre, *Fourth Shore*, 161-177
Borrusio, *Il mito infranto*, 69-93
Tobino, *The Deserts of Libya*, 224-236, 290-301
Film: *Bengasi* (1942)

Dec 15  Class Presentations

Dec 18  Seminar Papers due via email by 5pm.

Works Listed in Syllabus

Abbonizio, Isabella. “Ideologia, cultura, identità: politica culturale e istituzioni artistico-

B. Allen and M. Russo (Minneapolis, 1997), 22-42.


Anderson, Lisa. “Legitimacy, Identity, and the Writing of History in Libya,” in *Statecraft
in the Middle East* eds. E. Davis and N. Gavrielides (Gainsville, Fl., 1991),70-91.

Atkinson, David. “Embodyed Resistance, Italian Anxieties, and the Place of the Nomad in
Colonial Cyrenaica,” in *Italian Bodies*, ed. Loredana Polezzi

Ballinger, Pamela. TBA

Barrera, Giulia. “Mussolini’s Colonial Race Laws and State-Settler Relations in Africa
Orientale Italiana (1935-1941),” *Journal of Modern Italian Studies* (September
2003), 423-443.

_____________. “The Construction of Racial Hierarchies

Beckerie, A. “African Americans and the Ethiopian War,” in *Revisioning Italy*, eds.
Allen and Russo (Minneapolis, 1997), 116-133.

Bellassai, Sandro. “The Masculine Mystique: antimodernism and virility in fascist Italy,”
*Journal of Modern Italian Studies* (December 2005), 314-335.


Bertellini, Giorgio. “Colonial Autism,” in A Place in the Sun, ed. Patrizia Palumbo

Borrisio, Paolo, ed. Il mito infranto. La fine del sogno africano negli appunti e nelle immagini di Massimo Borrisio (Manduria, 1997).

Camerini, Mario. Kif tebbi (1928)


Falasca-Zamponi, Simonetta. Fascist Spectacle (Berkeley, 1997).

Finaldi, Giuseppe. “Italy’s Scramble for Africa from Dogali to Adowa,” in Disastro, eds. John Dickie, John Foot and Frank Snowden (New York, 2002).

Fuller, Mia. Moderns Abroad (New York: Routledge, 2007).


Genina, Augusto. Lo squadrone bianco (1936).


Larebo, Haile. The Building of an Empire (Cambridge, 1994).


Marinetti, Filippo. Mafarka il futurista/Mafarka the Futurist (1909)

Memmi, A. The Colonizer and the Colonized (New York, 1965).


Polezzi, Loredana. “Imperial Reproductions.” Modern Italy


Spackman, Barbara. Fascist Virilities (Minneapolis, 1996).

