Spring 2014

HIST 585-000: Special Topics in History:

Topic: Fascism or Fascism: The Historical Experience in Comparative and Theoretical Perspective

Semester Description:

The seminar explores selected topics in the historiography of fascism with a primary focus on the two nations in which fascism came to power during the interwar period: Italy and Germany. However, some attention will be devoted to fascist movements elsewhere in Europe and outside Europe, as well as to fascism’s connections with colonialism. Questions to be addressed include: Can we speak of “generic” fascism or only of specific movements and regimes? What is the relation between fascist movements and fascist regimes? Did fascism have a common ethos, style, or cultural/religious project? How are we to understand its gender, class, and racist dimensions – and its imperial designs? In short, how are we to understand the experience(s) of fascism in the context of the societies that produced it (them)?

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

1. Iordachi, Constantin, ed., Comparative Fascist Studies: New Perspectives. 978-0415462228.


5. Childers, Thomas and Jane Caplan, eds., Reevaluating the Third Reich. 978-0841912289.


8. Ben-Ghiat, Ruth and Mia Fuller, eds., Italian Colonialism. 978-0230606369.

Grading:

- Seminar participants are expected to make oral presentations regarding common readings (to be assigned as we go along) and to engage actively in seminar discussion.
- The only formal requirement of a written nature is a historiographical essay of 15-20 pages due at the end of the semester.