

Boston University Study Abroad
Galleria Santa Lucia 1, 35139 Padova
049.650303 – www.bu.edu/padua/

CAS HI 260 VENETIAN HISTORY
THE VENETIAN REPUBLIC – ca. 697-1797



Course schedule: Monday-Thursday from 1.15 to 3.30 pm

Office hours: by appointment

Instructor: Piergabriele Mancuso, Ph.D.

Contact: gmancusobu.edu

Course value: 4 credits

COURSE OUTLINE

Venice was one of the most important and long-lasting maritime empires and political entities of the Western World. The city was founded around the end of the 7th century under the aegis of the Byzantine empire by groups of *Venetici*, northern Italian populations living in the Veneto and Friuli Venezia-Giulia areas. Venice ruled over several territories, from continental Italy down to the Western coast of the Adriatic sea, Greece, southern Italy and the Middle East. Venice had a very complex and stable government system - an oligarchic Republic led by a Doge (an Italianised term from the Latin *dux*, “leader”) - based on an efficient diplomacy and very strong military structure. At the peak of its power Venice was one of the most important trade centres, a city where different ethnic and religious communities were living together and in peace.

The aim of the course is to outline and analyze the most important phases of Venetian history. Although we will study in detail some of the problems concerning the political and cultural relations between the Venetian Republic and the hosted minorities (particularly the Armenian, the Jewish and the Greek ones), the course is on political and social history.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the course is to provide students with a comprehensive and critical view over Venetian history and the main features of its socio-political and social heritage. In class students will learn about the development of Venice's major historical events, the main factors that determined its economic and political development in late-antique and early medieval Italy up to the 15th-21st century broader European and world context. Students are warmly invited to comment, add relevant information and exercise critical analysis. Course field trip and visits are part of the syllabus and students are expected to take part of them, since they provide crucial *in situ* information directly related to the course topics. The course will be taught in English. All readings, exams and home assignments will be done in English.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

In order to pass the examination, students will be required to study at least the course pack (*dispense*) prepared by the instructor, which will be available at a suggested copy shop. Other material will be provided in photocopies during the course as an additional support to prepare the class presentations. Lectures are part of the study load, so students are expected to take notes during the classes, since some topics and subject presented are not treated in the current used textbooks.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS:

- John Julius Norwich, *A History of Venice*. New York, Vintage Books, 1989.
- Alvise Zorzi, *Venice 697-1797: A City, A Republic, An Empire*, The Overlook Press, 2009.

FURTHER READINGS (INCLUDED IN THE COURSE-PACK)

- Sven Ove Hansson and Anthonie Meijers, eds., *Norms in Technology*, Springer, 2012.
- William J. Bouwsma, *Venice and the Defense of the Republican Liberty - Renaissance Values in the Age of the Counter Reformation*. University of California Press and Cambridge University Press, Los Angeles-Berkeley and London, 1968.
- Debora Howard, *The Architectural History of Venice*, Yale University Press, 2002.
- Henry James, *The Aspern Papers*, in Christof Wegelin and Henry B. Wonham, eds., *Tales of Henry James*, London, W. W. Norton & Company, 2003, pp. 53-131.
- Anthony J. Mazzella, "Death in Venice": Fiction and Film," *College Literature*, Vol. 5, No. 3 (Fall, 1978), pp. 183-194.

- Gherardo Ortalli and Giovanni Scarabello, *A short history of Venice*, Pacinieditore, 2001-2005 (available also in Italian).
- John Ruskins, *The Stones of Venice*. Penguin Books, 2001.
- A.D. Wright, *Why the Venetian Interdict?*, in *The English Historical Review*, Vol. 89, No. 352, Jul., 1974, pp. 534-550.
- Alvise Zorzi and Giuseppe Agostini, *Venice: Tradition and Food*, Arsenale Editrice, 2006.
- Movies:
 - o *The Wings of the Dove*, 1997, directed by Iain Softley
 - o *Pane e tulipani* (“Bread and tulips”), directed by Silvio Soldini, 1999

THE COURSE REQUIRES

1. Careful reading (with dictionary if necessary) and full comprehension of all the texts included in the syllabus.
2. Active participation in class discussion and answer all the questions about home assignments and homework.
3. To make a class presentation on a topic chosen from a list proposed by the teacher or on a subject proposed by the student and approved by the teacher. Presentation’s topic can include topics of non-historiographical natures such as Venice’s artistic heritage (from music to visual arts and architecture) and socio-cultural tradition (e.g. Venice’s diplomacy; Venice’s culinary tradition, spiritual-religious heritage and language; etc...).
4. A written midterm exam.
5. A final written exam.

COMPONENTS OF THE FINAL GRADE

1. Attendance and class participation: 20%
2. Class presentation: 25%
3. 2 response papers: 15% each (2 pages each, Times New Roman 12, double spaced, margins 2cm)
4. Final written exam: 25% (includes all topics studied and discussed in class during the second part of the course)

Attendance and class participation: Students are expected to be punctual, ask questions, express curiosity and participate in discussions. Field trips are part of the curriculum and participation is **mandatory**.

One class presentation: During the second part of the semester students will be required to a class-presentation on a subject or topic approved by the professor. Presentations should not

last more than 30 minutes. Use of powerpoints and other similar technological devices and tools are strongly encouraged.

Two response papers: 2 response papers (2 pages each - in Italian, Times New Roman 12, double spaced, margins 2cm). Student will be asked to answer one open question on a major topic studied in class.

Final written exam: final written will consist of 25 multiple choices and 2 open questions on all the topics and subjects studied during the second part of the course. The final written exam will include all the topics discussed during the second part of the course, from the beginning of Venice's socio-economic decadence (1628) to Venice's inclusion into the United Kingdom of Italy (1866) and Venice's main contemporary issues (M.O.S.E. project).

POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

Boston University Padua students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trip required for the class. Students should note that attendance will be taken into account by faculty when determining final grades. Students absent from class for medical reasons need to provide a local doctor's note.

PLAGIARISM

Simply stated, plagiarism is taking another's work and presenting it as your own. Dictionary definitions of plagiarism frequently include terms such as 'theft' or 'steal'. Plagiarism is, in fact, intellectual theft. It is one of the most serious forms of academic misconduct. Plagiarism committed by a student will certainly result in course failure and may result in suspension or dismissal. For more details please see Boston University's Academic Conduct Code: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Boston University's Office of the University Registrar states:

'The University, in scheduling classes on religious holidays and observances, intends that students observing those traditions be given ample opportunity to make up work. Faculty members who wish to observe religious holidays will arrange for another faculty member to meet their classes or for cancelled classes to be rescheduled.' See Chapter 151C of the General Laws, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SYLLABUS

- 18/06** **Introduction to the course. Study and research methodologies, class participation and grading criteria.**
A.D. 697: the origin of the Venetian community: myths, legends and hypotheses about the birth of a community of free citizens.
READINGS:
Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 3-14; Azzara, *Venetiae...*, pp. 17-35;
Ortalli-Scarabello, *A Short History*, pp. 7-23 and Zorzi, *Venice*, chapters 1-4.
- 19/06** **Rialto and the birth of the Repubblica Serenissima (Most Serene Republic).**
Trade and war: Venice and the Crusades.
READINGS:
Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 76-91;
Ortalli-Scarabello, *A Short History*, pp. 23-36;
J. Ruskins, *The Stones*, pp. 140-156, "St. Mark's".
- 20/06** **The structures of the Venetian republic: the Doge, the Maggior Consiglio and the hierarchy of power.**
READINGS:
CONTENTS BASED ON THE POWERPOINT N. 5
- 23/06** **Venice and Constantinople (1204). The “Serrata del Maggior Consiglio”**
READINGS:
Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 122-143; Ortalli-Scarabello, *A Short History*, pp. 36-42; Zorzi, *Venice 697*, chapter 6.
- 24/06** **The War with Genoa (1378). The “Stato da Terra”: the Serenissima in the Italian inland.**
READINGS:
Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 243-276.
- 25/06** **The wars against the Turks and the League of Cambrai (1508).**
READINGS:
Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 390-402.

27/06 (FRIDAY)

ONE DAY PROGRAM FIELD TRIP

30/06

The peak of the Serenissima and the beginning of the decadence (1517-1628).

READINGS:

Norwich, *A History...*, p. 404-444.

N.B. Read Henry James' *The Aspern Papers* (text in the course-pack) and Response Paper One due

1/07

N. B. MIDTERM WRITTEN EXAM.

2/07

Set in Venice. Venice in the background [1]: *The Wings of the Dove*, (director Iain Softley, 1997), after a novel by Henry James. Complete film screening, part 1

3/07

***The Wings of the Dove*, film screening, part 2 - analysis and comments.**

4/07 (FRIDAY)

N.B. Trip to Venice. Visit to the Dogal Palace and the Museo Storico Navale (Maritin Historical Museum). T.B.C –

7/07

The crisis of the Venetian trade. Lepanto: 1570-1571. PRESENTATION SESSION BEGINS

8/07

The Last Interdict (part I): 1607. Venice's fight for spiritual freedom and PRESENTATION SESSION.
(Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 481-488; 506-517; Ortalli-Scarabello, *A Short History*, pp. 89-95; A.D. Wright, *Why the Venetian Interdict?*, in *The English Historical Review*, Vol. 89, No. 352, Jul., 1974, pp. 534-555).

9/07

The Last Interdict (part II): Paolo Sarpi's legacy and the problem of religious freedom in Venice and PRESENTATION SESSION.
(Zorzi, *Venice 697*, chapters 8-9; Bouwsma, *Venice and the Defense of Republican Liberty*, pp. 339-416).

10/7

The Threaty of Passarowitz (1718) and PRESENTATION SESSION
(Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 575-582)

14/7

Ludovico Manin, the last Doge (1787). Venice under sphere of French influence and PRESENTATION SESSION - **Response Paper Two due**

- 15/7 **12 May 1797: the end of the Serenissima Repubblica and PRESENTATION SESSION.**
(Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 575-604; Ortalli-Scarabello, *A Short History*, pp. 95-105).
- 16/7 **Venice, from the French and Austrian dominion to Italian independence 1797-1866.**
(Zorzi, *Venice 696*, chapter 12-16).
- 17/7 **An view on Venetian architecture and art history. The Palladian style and the birth of European and American Neo-Classic culture**
(Howard, *The Architectural History of Venice*, pp. 45-126).
- 18/7 **“Post-modern, plastic Venice”: Venice in the age of mass tourist and global knowledge: current issue and future perspectives. The M.O.S.E. system**
(Hansson, *Norms in Technology*, chapter 6).
- 21/7 **Set in Venice. Venice in the background [2]: selected scenes screening of Silvio Soldini’s “Pane e tulipani” (“Bread and tulips”, 1999) and “Venezia, la luna e tu” featuring Italian comedian Alberto Sordi. A funny view on Venice in the era of global tourism.**
- 22/7 **Overview and general discussion about the course**
- 24/7 **FINAL WRITTEN EXAM**