

## Boston University Study Abroad

Fall semester

### CAS HI 260 THE VENETIAN REPUBLIC



Course schedule: Two 2 hours appointments per week

Office hours: by appointment

Instructor: Piergabriele Mancuso, Ph.D. (gmancuso@bu.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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Field trips are part of the curriculum and participation is **mandatory**. Lectures are part of the study load, so please take note of the lectures, for some themes and subjects presented in them are not in the textbooks.

### **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 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> 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 Italian. All readings, exams and home assignments will be done in Italian.

### **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.

#### **MAIN TEXTBOOKS:**

- John Julius Norwich, *A History of Venice*. New York, Vintage Books, 1989.

- Charles Diehl, *La Repubblica di Venezia*. Newton Compton, Roma, 2004-2006.

#### **FURTHER READINGS (SEE COURSE-PACK)**

- Claudio Azzara, *Venetiae – Determinazione di un'area regionale fra antichità e alto medioevo*, Edizioni Canova Treviso, 1994.
- Ivone Cacciavillani, *Gli Interdetti della Serenissima*. Signum editrice, Limena-Padova, 1993.
- Ivone Cacciavillani, *La Repubblica Serenissima – profile della costituzione veneziana*. Signum editrice, Limena-Padova, 1985.
- Franco Mancuso, *Venezia è una città – Come è stata costruita e come vive*. Corte del Fontego, 2009.
- 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.
- Maurizio Vittoria, *Breve storia di Venezia – Dalle origini ai giorni nostri*. Milano, Newton Compton, 1997.
- A.D. Wright, *Why the Venetian Interdict?*, in *The English Historical Review*, Vol. 89, No. 352, Jul., 1974, pp. 534-550.
- Alvise Zorzi, *La Repubblica del Leone – Storia di Venezia*. Milano, Rusconi, 1979.

#### **ACADEMIC RULES**

Absence will be excused only due to health or other major problems. A medical certificate must be produced in case of absence due to health problems. Absences for other reasons will affect your grade. Punctuality is expected. Class will be divided normally, but not necessarily always, into two sections: a lecture (first hour) and discussion (second hour). Please bring with you paper and pen. The lecturer can be reached by e-mail ([gmancuso@bu.edu](mailto:gmancuso@bu.edu)), by phone (349 6400459) or in his office after class.

#### **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).

## BU GRADE CHART

Grade	Honour	Points
A	4.0	93-100
A-	3.7	90-92
B+	3.3	87-89
B	3.0	83-86
B-	2.7	80-82
C+	2.3	77-79
C	2.0	73-76
C-	1.7	70-72
D	1.0	60-69
F	0.0	Below

**"A" grade** will be assigned to serious, ambitious, hard-working, punctual Artists.

All Artists are expected to dedicate their time and to engage with enthusiasm/ participation/contribution to all class-work and exercises.

Two unexcused absences will bring the class grade down half grade. Three or more unexcused absences can put the student in jeopardy of failing the course. It is the student's responsibility to make up work from a class missed for an excused absence.

## BU 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

### WEEK 1 Lesson 1

**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.**

(Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 3-14; Azzara, *Venetiae...*, pp. 17-35; Ortalli-Scarabello, *A Short History*, pp. 7-23 and Mancuso, *Venezie è una città*, pp. 5-41, particularly pp. 5-21).

### Lesson 2

**Rialto and the birth of the Repubblica Serenissima (Most Serene Republic).  
Trade and war: Venice and the Crusades.**

(Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 76-91; Ortalli-Scarabello, *A Short History*, pp. 23-36; J. Ruskins, *The Stones*, pp. 140-156, "St. Mark's").

### WEEK 2, Lesson 1

**The structures of the Venetian republic: the Doge, the Maggior Consiglio and the hierarchy of power.**

(C. Diehl, *La Repubblica di Venezia*, , pp. 74-102, "La costituzione di Venezia e il governo della Repubblica"; Cacciavillani, *La Repubblica Serenissima*, pp. 1-31).

**Lesson 2** **Venice and Constantinople (1204). The “Serrata del Maggior Consiglio”**  
(Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 122-143; Ortalli-Scarabello, *A Short History*, pp. 36-42; Cacciavillani, *la Repubblica Serenissima*, pp. 41-52).

**WEEK 3,**  
**Lesson 1** **The War with Genoa (1378). The “Stato da Terra”: the Serenissima in the Italian inland.**  
(Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 243-276).

**Lesson 2** **The wars against the Turks and the League of Cambrai (1508).**  
(Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 390-402).

**WEEK 4**  
**Lesson 1** **The peak of the Serenissima and the beginning of the decadence (1517-1628).**  
**Lesson 2** **N. B. MID-TERM WRITTEN EXAM.**

**WEEK 5**  
**Lesson 1** **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**

**WEEK 6**  
**Lesson 1** ***The Wings of the Dove*, film screening, part 2.  
Read Henry James, *The Wings of the Dove*, (text provided; see course-pack); analysis and comments.**

**WEEK 7**  
**Lesson 1** **The crisis of the Venetian trade. Lepanto: 1570-1571. PRESENTATION SESSION BEGINS**  
**Lesson 2** **The Last Interdict (part I): 1607. Venice’s fight for spiritual freedom + PRESENTATION SESSION.**

**WEEK 8**

**Lesson 1**                    **The Last Interdict (part II): Paolo Sarpi's legacy and the problem of religious freedom in Venice + PRESENTATION SESSION.**

(Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 481-488; 506-517; Ortalli-Scarabello, *A Short History*, pp. 89-95). **N.B. study** also A.D. Wright, *Why the Venetian Interdict?*, in *The English Historical Review*, Vol. 89, No. 352, Jul., 1974, pp. 534-550 and Cacciavillani, *Gli Interdetti della Serenissima*, pp. 6-27/129-137 and Cacciavillani, *La Repubblica Serenissima*, pp. 95-107 (see course pack).

**Lesson 2**                    **The Threaty of Passarowitz (1718) + PRESENTATION SESSION**

(Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 575-582)

**WEEK 9**

**Lesson 1**                    **Ludovico Manin, the last Doge (1787). Venice under sphere of French influence and PRESENTATION SESSION.**

**Lesson 2**                    **12 May 1797: the end of the Serenissima Republic and LAST PRESENTATION SESSION**

(Norwich, *A History...*, pp. 575-604; Ortalli-Scarabello, *A Short History*, pp. 95-105)

**WEEK 10**

**Lesson 1**                    **Set in Venice. Venice in the background [2]: complete screening of Silvio Soldini's "Pane e tulipani" ("Bread and tulips", 1999). A funny view on Venice in the era of mass-tourism – part 1.**

**WEEK 11**

**Lesson 1**                    **"Bread and tulips", part 2; analysis and comments – part 2.**

**WEEK 12**

**Lesson 1**                    **Venice, from the French and Austrian dominion to Italian independence 1797-1866.**

**Lesson 2**                    **Overview and general discussion about the course.**

**WEEK 13**

**WEEK 14**

**Lesson 1**                    **Final review**



**Lesson 2**

**Final review**

**WEEK 15**

**Lesson 1**

**FINAL EXAM – (WRITTEN – T.B.C.)**

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**Piergabriele Mancuso, 2011®**

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