

BOSTON UNIVERSITY STUDY ABROAD PADUA

COURSE	CAS HI 260 THE VENETIAN REPUBLIC
COURSE LANGUAGE	Italian
INSTRUCTOR	Piergabriele Mancuso, Ph.D.
INSTRUCTOR EMAIL	gmancuso@bu.edu
OFFICE HOURS	
SCHEDULE	
COURSE VALUE	4 CREDITS
LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate increased proficiency in Italian language from elementary to low-intermediate level and from intermediate to advanced level. 2. Demonstrate knowledge of Italian culture with respect to three of the following areas: history, politics, economics, religion, literature, film and the arts. 3. Develop an awareness of cultural difference and an understanding of culture's role in shaping beliefs and practices. 4. Develop new perspectives on one's own culture and an ability to think critically about one's own values and beliefs.
COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>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 population 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.</p> <p>The aim of the course is to outline and analyse 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 Armenians, the Jews, and the Greeks), the course is on political and social history. The course will include two visits, one to the Dogal Palace and one to the Jewish Ghetto, its synagogues and the surrounding area. The course includes an evening on-site class/visit to the Fenice Opera House to see <i>Otello</i> by Giuseppe Verdi, on a libretto by Arrigo Boito, after Shakespeare's play; similarly we'll study Shakespeare's <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> with screening of selected scenes from Michael Radford's 2004 homonymous film featuring Al Pacino (for more information on this, see the bibliography below).</p> <p>Students will be required to read the original texts and comment on them in class, as well as to compare the compare them to the operatic and cinematic renditions, with specific emphasis on Venice as a place and historical metaphor.</p>
LEARNING STATEMENT	In addition to two 110-minute class meetings per week, students are required to read and study all home assignments as indicated in the syllabus, to prepare short review of previous classes and submit a final

	<p>paper to work on immediately after the assignment of the research topic. All this will certainly require at least 4-6 hours per week from a student outside calls.</p>
TEACHING METHODOLOGY	<p>The study of Venetian history – the vicissitudes of a small but very powerful city-state – cannot be divorced from the analysis of the bigger socio-cultural and political frame of European history. While focusing on Venice, students will learn how to frame the events, both political-military and cultural, in the broader European frame. Students are exposed to the exercise of their critical thinking, showing their understanding and ability to analyse some Venetian historical issues from an interdisciplinary perspective.</p>
COURSE MATERIALS	<p>Course main textbook:</p> <p>J. J. Norwich, <i>Storia di Venezia</i>. Milano, Mursia editore, 2 volumes, 1981 (Italian translation of the English edition <i>A History of Venice</i>, New York, Vintage Books, 1989. These books are in our library).</p> <p>Additional readings are available online at the BU course blackboard.</p>
BIBLIOGRAPHY	<p>Readings (in the course blackboard):</p> <p>S. Bassi and A. Toso Fei, <i>Shakespeare in Venice – Luoghi, personaggi e incanti di una città che va in scena</i>, Elzeviro, Venice, 2007.</p> <p>R. Calimani, <i>Storia del ghetto di Venezia</i>, Milano, Mondadori, 2010.</p> <p>N. Capponi, <i>Lepanto 1571 – La Lega santa contro l’Impero ottomano</i>, Il Saggiatore, 2006.</p> <p>R. Cessi, <i>Storia della Repubblica di Venezia</i>. Giunti Martello, Firenze, 1981.</p> <p>P. Del Negro and F. Ambrosini, <i>L’aquila e il Leone – I contatti diplomatici per un accordo commerciale fra gli Stati Uniti d’America e la Repubblica Veneta – 1783-1797</i>, Padova, Programma 1+1 Editori, 1989.</p> <p>D. M. Nicol, <i>Venezia e Bisanzio</i> (Italian translation of the English edition <i>Byzantium and Venice – A Study in Diplomatic and Cultural Relations</i>, Cambridge, Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge, 1988), Milano, Rizzoli, 1990.</p> <p>Antonella Favaro, <i>La vera storia dell’Otello di Shakespeare – Prefazione di Marino Zorzi</i>. Udine, Gaspari, 2014.</p> <p>J. J. Norwich, <i>Venezia – Nascita di un mito romantico</i>, Milano, Il Saggiatore, 2006 (traduzione italiana dell’originale in lingua inglese, <i>Paradise of cities</i>, 2003, a cura di Piero Budinich).</p> <p>G. Ortalli and G. Scarabello, <i>Breve storia di Venezia</i>. Pisa, Pacini editore, 1990.</p> <p>J. Ruskin, <i>Le pietre di Venezia</i>, Milano, Mondadori, 1982 (Italian translation of the English edition, <i>The Stones of Venice</i>, 1981).</p> <p>M. Vittoria, <i>Breve storia di Venezia</i>, Newton Compton, 1997.</p>

	<p>G. G. Zorzi, <i>Le ville e i teatri di Andrea Palladio</i>, Venezia, 1969.</p> <p>Videos: <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>, 2004, directed by Michael Radford.</p> <p><i>Otello</i>, by Giuseppe Verdi. James Levine, conductor. The Metropolitan Opera, New York, 1995.</p> <p>On-line sources: A very comprehensive database for Venetian history bibliography and on-line primary sources can be found at http://www.storiadivenezia.net/sito/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=64</p> <p>An interesting website, non-academic, offering a open window on contemporary Venice and Venetian life is www.venessia.com. It requires a basic knowledge of Venetian dialect/language or a good master of Italian.</p> <p>Jstor is probably the richest and most update academic databases, including article and academic material on history and Venetian history. All students have free access to Jstor using their Bu account and Kerberos password. Jstor is a suggested user-friendly tool for the composition of final papers and dissertation.</p> <p>A more traditional but still very useful tool for academic research on Venetian history is UTET's <i>Enciclopedia di Venezia</i>, available at BUSA-Padua library.</p>
AIMS OF THE COURSE	<p>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. We will study the development of Venice's major historical events, the main factors that determined its economic and political development in late ancient and early medieval Italy up to the 15th-21st century in a broader European and world context. On-site visits are mandatory as they provide crucial <i>in situ</i> information directly related to the course topics. <u>The course is taught in Italian, thus students are expected to engage a lot in reading and writing assignments in this language.</u></p>
GRADING CRITERIA	<p>Attendance and class participation: 15% Mid-term written exam: 20% Class presentation 15% Final research project: 25% Final oral exam: 25% (includes all topics studied and discussed in class since after mid-term, including on site classes and student presentations).</p> <p>Attendance and class participation: Students are expected to be <u>punctual</u>, ask and <u>answers questions</u> (especially when concerning homework and course readings), express curiosity and participate <u>actively</u> in the discussions. Before each class students will be asked to make short review (3-5 minutes max) summarising and explaining the main topics and contents of the past class. Field trips are part of the curriculum and participation is absolutely <u>mandatory</u>.</p> <p>Mid-term written exam: the exam consists of 15 multiple choice questions and three questions with long answers (ca. 500 words each) on any aspect of the topics studied in class and the field trips during the first</p>

	<p>part of the course, from the time of Venice’s birth to the beginning of the Most Serene Republic’s political and territorial decadence (1508-09). Students are expected to offer concise but also comprehensive analyses as well as to offer a general chronological contextualization together with the exact and punctual references to the events, places and most prominent historical figures. Mid-term exam will be done on</p> <p>Class presentation: A class presentation on a subject or topic approved by the professor for the Final research project (see below). Presentations should last no more than 15 minutes. Use of PowerPoint and other similar technological devices and tools are strongly encouraged.</p> <p>Final research project: The aim of the project is conduct an on-site research and a final docu-film/video-doc on any aspect of the Venetian presence in Padua, from politics, culture, art, through language and local lore and history, on a topic approved by the teacher. The research should be based on analysis and study of local elements as well as on academic materials, normally one book and 5-6 academic articles. Final research project will be done by groups of students (2, maximum 3) but each member of the group will be required to report on the project individually with a formal presentation (see Class Presentation above). Students will be graded individually on the basis of their contribution to the group work. Submit provisional draft by</p> <p>Students will send their final version of the work by e-mail (gmanuso@bu.edu) to the instructor by</p> <p>Final oral exam: students will be asked to answer orally questions concerning <u>any topic studied after mid-term</u>, (from post-Agnadello battle and early 16th century crisis to Venice’s fall in 1797 and incorporation into the Kingdom of Italy, 1866), including on-site visits, guest speaker’s lecture and fellow students’ presentations done during the course. The instructor will provide a list of specific questions on concepts and facts discussed during the course on which students are expected to show their historical and critical competence. Final oral exam will take place on</p>
<p>BU POLICY</p>	<p>Examinations</p> <p>All academic commitments must be completed before you leave the site; no incompletes are permitted. Students who do not complete a course on time will be given an F.</p> <p>Students are required to sit their examinations on the dates, at the times, and in the same classroom as the other students in their class.</p> <p>If a student is ill or has another extenuating circumstance that causes the student to be absent from a scheduled examination, he/she must provide appropriate documentation and receive approval from the Director.</p> <p>Attendance</p> <p>Students should note that attendance will be taken into account by faculty. Boston University Padua students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, on-site class, internship work appointment, and activity required for the class as indicted in the syllabus. Any student with irregular class attendance may have his/her final grade penalized.</p> <p>Absences</p> <p>Unjustified absences from class, and any class related activity, will affect the students’ participation grade, which will be lowered by one letter grade for</p>

each absence.

Absence for Religious Reasons

According to Chapter 151C of the General Laws, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, any student in an educational or vocational training institution, other than a religious or denominational educational or vocational training institution, who is unable, because of his or her religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day, shall be excused from any such examination or study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such examination, study, or work requirement that may have been missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however, that such makeup examinations or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said students such opportunity. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to students because of their availing themselves of the provisions of this section. Students who have questions about practicing their religion while abroad should contact Boston University Study Abroad.

Lateness

Students arriving more than 10 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Being late three times is equivalent to missing one class.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to turn in all course assignments on time as stated in each course syllabus. Late assignments will not be accepted and missed assignments will automatically be awarded an F. Please note that all coursework must be completed by the end of the program.

Plagiarism Simply stated, plagiarism is taking another's work and presenting it as you own. 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 Code of Student Responsibilities: <http://www.bu.edu/lifebook/universitypolicies/policies-code.html>

Disability accommodations If you are a student with a disability or believe you might have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 617-353- 3658 to coordinate any reasonable accommodation requests. For more information, please visit: <http://www.bu.edu/disability>

Interruption of program or early departure

Only in serious cases – mostly related to medical emergencies – the Director will allow a student to take a significant break during the program or to leave before its official conclusion. Official written approval must be received by the Director.

Academic Advice

The Director and Assistant Academic Director serve as the head of the faculty and as academic advisors. The Director/Assistant Academic Director is available on an appointment basis to assist students with academic issues. For academic advice regarding students' home

institutions' policies and transfer credit information, non-Boston students should also contact their school's academic advisors.

Tutorials

BU faculty are available by appointment for students who may need support in the learning process. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this resource. Students in the past found it very useful to succeed. Students who receive a C on a test must seek support from faculty.