

Course syllabus: Fascisms and nature in Europe

History 600 / Seminar section 002

Fascisms and nature in Europe

Tue 3:30 – 5:30 pm,
Humanities Bldg. 5257
#wischist6002

Instructor:

Dr. Wilko Graf von Hardenberg
DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental History

Contact details

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This seminar introduces students to the comparative history of European fascisms and their ideologies through the lens of environmental history.

In the first part of the seminar students will develop through readings and discussions an understanding of European fascisms and their visions of nature within a global historical perspective.

In consultation with the instructor students will choose research topics early in the seminar. Research strategies and preliminary results will be discussed and refined in class. Students will be introduced to available online and library resources, and the development of writing skills will be an important focus. Primary sources available in English about the relationship between fascisms and nature are scarce, so seminar participants will learn and practice how to extrapolate from more general sources with the instructor's guidance. Potential sources might include newspapers, reports and tourist guides in English, visual sources (pictures, paintings, film footage, and propaganda material), and memoirs, speeches, and legislation in translation. The final research paper will contextualize such sources within a solid framework of existing historical scholarship.

Assignments:

There are five graded written assignments for this course:

- a **preliminary paper proposal** (1-2 paragraphs) – Due Sep 30
- a **paper proposal** (4 pages / ~1200 words) – Due Oct 28
- a **bibliography and list of primary sources** (1-2 pages / ~300-600 Words) – Due Nov 11
- a **draft essay** – Due Nov 25
- **final essay** (18-20 pages / ~6000 words) – Due Dec 17

The due date for the **draft** and the length of the **final essay** are different for **graduate students**

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attending the course: their draft is due by **Nov 18** and they are expected to submit a **25-30 pages** (~8000 words) final essay.

You will also be graded for **in-class and online participation** (including reading responses and oral presentation, see below).

Between the submission of your rough draft and that of the final essay you will briefly (10 minutes) present your research in class and give feedback on your colleagues' research.

In **weeks 2-8** you are expected to send me **by 6pm on the day before class** your questions (reading responses) about the weekly reading assignments. These will be used, anonymously, to inform our discussion in class. Not submitting your reading responses will affect your participation grade.

Grading

Letter grades will be converted from a 100-point scale. The following conversion chart applies: 93-100 = A; 88-92 = AB; 83-87 = B; 78-82 = BC; 70-77 = C; 60-69 = D; 59-below = F.

Grades per coursework will be broken down following this rubric:

- Participation		40 pts
- Preliminary paper proposal	Due Sep 30	5 pts
- Paper proposal	Due Oct 28	10 pts
- Tentative bibliography and list of sources	Due Nov 11	10 pts
- Draft essay	Due Nov 18 or 25	10 pts
- Final essay	Due Dec 17	25 pts

Extra credit

Up to 9 pts extra credit will be given for a maximum of 3 short "Places & Events" entries, based on the research project, for the Environment & Society Portal (www.environmentandsociety.org), including one copyright cleared image each, list of further readings, and related links.

There is the possibility that these items might be published on the Environment & Society Portal, with full credits to the students, but a final decision on this will be taken by the Portal team, independently from grading. To know more about the project and peruse existing items visit www.environmentandsociety.org/places-events. Guidelines for the production of Portal items are available at www.environmentandsociety.org/places-events/guidelines-contributors.

Different forms of contribution (e.g. Arcadia: www.environmentandsociety.org/arcadia) and different credits may be discussed with graduate students on a case by case basis.

Extra credits will be attributed independently for each item: 1 point will be assigned for respecting the guidelines and submitting a complete item and up to 2 points will be assigned for the originality (in respect to existing Portal content) and overall quality of text.

The final date for the submission of the items is the same as for the final essay. Entries should be submitted in a modifiable format: any text, Windows, Libre/OpenOffice format works.

Course policies:

Attendance: Attending classes is the students' responsibility and attendance will not be taken.

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This however is a seminar course and active participation in class discussion is a requirement which will directly affect your participation grade. As a reminder, I will also add that just showing up to class does not count as active participation. This course will also include online participation using the Twitter hashtag #wischist6002.

According to campus wide rules on religious observance I invite you, nonetheless, to notify me within the first two weeks of class of the specific dates for which you request relief for religious observance, since these may affect your ability to respect the assignments' deadlines.

Department survey: In the first and last week of the semester undergraduate students will receive an online survey from the History Department. The aim of the survey is to track the development of your historical skills over the semester. You are required to fill in this survey in both week 1 and week 15.

Reading assignments: Reading the book chapters and articles given in the course schedule before classes is expected. These texts are the core materials of the course and will allow you to participate actively in discussion: their reading will affect your participation grade and is essential for a successful completion of written assignments.

Academic integrity: In any written assignment it is necessary to acknowledge and fully quote your sources and references. You should NEVER attribute to yourself, or give the impression that you are attributing to yourself, the words and phrasing of others. Plagiarism is an unacceptable ethical infraction and can lead to serious consequences. For further information on how to avoid plagiarism please refer to the UW-Madison Writing Center webpages: <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QuotingSources.html>

Communication: E-mails will be answered only on weekdays 10am-3pm. If you have any questions that require a longer answer please drop by during office hours or arrange a meeting. You may as well use the course hashtag #wischist6002 for questions of interest to the whole class. In e-mails please always use a subject line and clarify which course you have a question about.

Submitting Work: All written assignments must be submitted via email as pdf by 6pm on the day before the lecture on which they are due (if not differently stated). The student's name, course title, and due date of the paper, as well as a title should appear clearly on top of the paper. Formatting should be 12pt font, double spacing, 1 inch margins. Pages should be numbered. References should be given according to *Chicago Manual of Style* (Notes and bibliography): http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html If your written assignments are submitted late they will receive a reduced grade (1 point for each day of delay). No late submissions will be accepted for the final essay. Weekly reading responses are expected via e-mail the day before class by 6pm between weeks 2 and 8. Not submitting your reading responses on time will affect your participation grade.

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Modifications to Syllabus: The syllabus may be subject to changes. Reasonable notice will be given.

Course Schedule

Week 1

3 Sep 2013 – *Introduction of course and presentation of the syllabus*

Week 2

10 Sep 2013 – *Setting the stage*

- Bramwell, Anna. “Was There a Generic Fascist Ecologism?” In *Ecology in the 20th Century: a History*, 161–174. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989.
- Uekötter, Frank. “Green Nazis? Reassessing the Environmental History of Nazi Germany.” *German Studies Review* (2007): 267–287.
- Hardenberg, Wilko Graf von. “Nature Rhetoric. Mediterranean Fascisms Between Industrialization and First Preservation.” In *Views from the South: Environmental Stories from the Mediterranean World, 19th- 20th Centuries*, edited by Marco Armiero, 187–208. Naples: CNR - Istituto di studi sulle società del Mediterraneo, 2006.

Week 3

17 Sep 2013 – *What are Fascisms?*

- Passmore, Kevin. *Fascism: a Very Short Introduction*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. 1-87, 108-118, 123-151
- Mosse, George L. “Fascist Aesthetics and Society: Some Considerations.” *Journal of Contemporary History* 31, no. 2 (April 1, 1996): 245–252

Week 4

24 Sep 2013 – *Comparing Fascisms*

- Schivelbusch, Wolfgang. *Three New Deals: Reflections on Roosevelt’s America, Mussolini’s Italy, and Hitler’s Germany, 1933-1939*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2006. 17-48, 104-183

Week 5

1 Oct 2013 – *Introduction to Nazi “environmentalism” in Germany*

- Blackbourn, David. *The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape, and the Making of Modern Germany*. New York: Norton, 2006. 251-309
- Ditt, Karl. “The Perception and Conservation of Nature in the Third Reich.” *Planning Perspectives* 15, no. 2 (2000): 161-187.
- Uekötter, Frank. *The Green and the Brown: A History of Conservation in Nazi Germany*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. 1-43, 211-216.
- Brüggemeier, Franz-Josef, Mark Cioc, and Thomas Zeller, eds. *How Green Were the Nazis?: Nature, Environment, and Nation in the Third Reich*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio

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University Press, 2005. Introduction, 1-17

Preliminary paper proposal due! (at 6pm on the day before class)

Week 6

8 Oct 2013 – *Nature conservation in Nazi Germany*

- Uekötter, Frank. *The Green and the Brown: A History of Conservation in Nazi Germany*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. 44-183

Feedback on preliminary paper proposals will be given

Week 7

15 Oct 2013 – *How Green Were the Nazis?*

- Brüggemeier, Franz-Josef, Mark Cioc, and Thomas Zeller, eds. *How Green Were the Nazis?: Nature, Environment, and Nation in the Third Reich*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2005. (5 essays of students' choice. Inform me about your choice per e-mail by the day before class at 6pm at the latest together with your reading response)

Week 8

22 Oct 2013 – *The Italian case*

- Armiero, Marco. *A Rugged Nation: Mountains and the Making of Modern Italy: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*. Cambridge [UK]: White Horse, 2011. 109-154. (available online at <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/3501>)
- Hardenberg, Wilko Graf von. "Beyond Human Limits. The Culture of Nature Conservation in Interwar Italy." *Aether – The Journal of Media Geography* 11 (February 2013): 42–69.
- Armiero, Marco, and Wilko Graf von Hardenberg. "Green Rhetoric in Blackshirts: Italian Fascism and the Environment." *Environment and History* 19, no. 3 (August 1, 2013): 283–311.
- Binde, Per. "Nature Versus City: Landscapes of Italian Fascism." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 17, no. 6 (1999): 761–775.
- Caprotti, Federico, and Maria Kaïka. "Producing the Ideal Fascist Landscape: Nature, Materiality and the Cinematic Representation of Land Reclamation in the Pontine Marshes." *Social & Cultural Geography* 9 (September 2008): 613–634.

Week 9

29 Oct 2013 – *Library session* (details will be given in class)

Paper proposal due! (at 6pm on the day before class)

Week 10

5 Nov 2013 – *Finding sources online and revision of paper proposals*.

Bring your own laptop, if possible

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Week 11

12 Nov 2013 – *In class discussion and ongoing revision of paper proposals and bibliographies*
A brief list of primary and secondary sources will be produced on the basis of those you plan to use in your essays. These will be discussed in class on week 13

Tentative bibliography and list of primary sources due! (at 6pm on the day before class)

Week 12

19 Nov 2013 – *Writing Center session* (details will be given in class) – Date TBC

Draft essay due for graduate students! (at 6pm on the day before class).

Drafts will be circulated to your colleagues and discussed in class the following week.

Week 13

26 Nov 2013 – *Crowdsourcing sources and in class presentations*

Graduate students present their drafts. Read your colleagues' drafts before class and provide feedback on their short presentations.

The primary and secondary sources gathered on week 11 will be discussed in class. Read them beforehand. There will also be the opportunity to discuss the extra credit assignment.

Draft essay due for undergraduate students! (at 6pm on the day before class).

Drafts will be circulated to your colleagues and discussed in class the following week.

Week 14

3 Dec 2013 – *In class presentations, peer feedback and instructor feedback.*

Read your colleagues' rough drafts before class and provide feedback on their short presentations.

Week 15

10 Dec 2013

No meeting. I'll be available in my office during class hours and on Thursday during office hours to discuss your research progress. A schedule of meetings will be prepared during the previous meeting.

17 Dec 2013

Final paper due (by 6pm)

Final paper due 17 Dec 2013 at 6pm (via e-mail in pdf format)