



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia



Ca' Foscari  
**School for  
International  
Education**

## Syllabus – Prof. Cecchini

<b>Official course title</b>	History of Venice
<b>Academic Year</b>	2018/2019
<b>University credits</b>	6 ECTS
<b>Semester/trimester</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> semester
<b>Hours</b>	30 hrs (12 lessons 2 ½ hrs)
<b>Where/Room</b>	Padoan, San Sebastiano
<b>Professor</b>	<u>Isabella Cecchini</u>

### Contents

Why is Venice such a fascinating city? What creates its unique atmosphere, that enchanted writers and travelers? And how was the city able to grow and flourish for centuries? This course will try to offer some answers with an overview of the long history of Venice from its origins to the end of its “republican” government in 1797, briefly taking into account also its more recent past. Lessons will highlight the general dynamics that shaped its society and economy in a long-term perspective, but several aspects related to its form and buildings will also be taken into account. The city is at the core of any lesson, but references to European, and more broadly global, history will be included.

Contents will consider (but will not be limited to):

- The city and the lagoon: how the city was built, and why, in such an apparently hostile environment
- Expansion and decline: one thousand years of history
- The structure: parishes and campi, bell towers and palaces
- The lion: why an African mammal represents a city and its state
- The government and the patriciate: why St Mark's place is important (and so visited)
- The economy and the building of a commercial empire
- Venetian material world: sugar, silks, beads, and violins
- The myth of Venice

One lesson will be devoted to a guided tour of the most relevant places highlighted in class.

San Sebastiano  
Dorsoduro 1686  
30123 Venice  
Italy

T. +39 041 234 7376  
7377-7378-7313  
F. +39 041 234 7375  
cfsie@unive.it

P.IVA 00816350276  
C.F. 80007720271



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia



Ca' Foscari  
**School for  
International  
Education**

## Educational Goals

The course aims to investigate the features and turning points in the history of one of the most renowned cities in Medieval and early modern Mediterranean, and to offer analytical tools for understanding contemporary Venice and its challenges. It stresses the importance of history in shaping a collective identity and in understanding and defending its architecture and its works of art.

## Recommended Reading List

The reference text for the entire course is Frederic C. Lane, *Venice: A Maritime Republic*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London, 1973, selected chapters and pages. Further readings will eventually be added.

Whenever possible, reading material will be made available as pdf at least the day before each lesson on the online platform of this course.

## Assessment

Written test.

## Teaching Methods

Lectures. Students are invited to debate the topics which will be taught in class. Powerpoints of each lesson will be made available the day before.

## Teaching Language

English.

## Other Information

San Sebastiano  
Dorsoduro 1686  
30123 Venice  
Italy

T. +39 041 234 7376  
7377-7378-7313  
F. +39 041 234 7375  
cfsie@unive.it

P.IVA 00816350276  
C.F. 80007720271