course	Contemporary History and Media History
ects (cfu)	6
year running	1°
semester	second
lecturer	Filippo Maria Giordano
e-mail	f.giordano@unilink.it
consultation time	After class or by appointment previously arranged by e-mail

LEARNING AND SKILLS OUTCOMES

The course aims at achieving the following learning and skills outcomes:

1. with reference to **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**, the Course aims to promote basic historical skills and give students a good knowledge of historical phenomena of the contemporary age, enabling them to grasp the complexity and the changes over time of political-institutional, economic-social, and cultural factors. The Course highlights the knowledge of the main facts and events in Italian, European and World History, placing them within the framework of the evolution of the international system and the interactions between ~~the~~ various areas of the world. The student will be able to also understand the fundamental aspects of Media History and its interaction with the historical facts and social changes. Finally, the Course aims to analyse the main themes of Contemporary History of the 19th and 20th century and the first decade of the new millennium through the narratives of television and especially of cinema, comparing them with the academic acquisitions of historiography;

2. with reference to **KNOWLEDGE AND APPLIED SKILLS**, students will develop the ability to discern the causes, characteristics and consequences of the main events, facts and stages of Contemporary History and Media History. The Course also aims to give students the ability to link aspects of the media and information society with historical events, introducing students to a theoretical and application-oriented academic approach to a broad and applicable media competence. The Course also considers impact research (impact on political decision processes, public social debates, etc.) bringing students to elaborate a final research/paper on a specific theme;

3. with reference to **INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT**, the Course aims to develop a critical approach to the relationship between History and Media in the Contemporary Era. Students will be able to understand in-depth the changes brought by the advance of new information technologies in a globalised world and their impact on political decisions;

4. with reference to **LEARNING ABILITIES**, students will be able to use knowledge and methodologies for specific class case studies and develop their final research/paper. This approach will enable students to create an autonomous method of studying and learning.

COURSE DETAILED CONTENTS

In a globalized and multicultural world, the knowledge of Contemporary History is useful and necessary in the sphere of media studies and in jobs related to the vast area of communication. The program of the course is divided into nineteen macro-areas of study, each examining in depth a specific collection of events with the aim of retracing two

centuries of Italian, European and global history, from the European Restoration, following the Napoleonic Wars up to the present day. In addition, the program provides an overview of the great political, social, economic and cultural transformations that followed in the main areas of the world (Europe, Americas, Asia, and Africa) during the 19th and 20th centuries, taking into consideration also fundamental references to the great revolutions (the American Revolution, the French Revolution and the Industrial Revolution) with their profound influences on the entire contemporary era.

SYLLABUS

1. The great revolutions of the late 18th century (Industrial Revolution, American Revolution, French Revolution)
2. Napoleonic Wars
3. Congress of Vienna and Restoration
4. Wars of Independence in South America
5. Crisis of the Ancien Régime and liberal, democratic and national revolutions (1820-1848)
6. Italian Risorgimento and the process of national unification
7. German unification process
8. Eastern Question
9. The non-European world - ASIA: the Middle East; the Taiping revolution in China; the opening up of Japan in the 1950s; the Meiji revolution
10. The non-European world - AMERICA: the American Civil War, American imperialism and the new power arrangements in South America
11. The non-European world - AFRICA and OCEANIA: colonialism and imperialism of European powers and the birth of new states in the Pacific
12. EUROPE between the 19th and 20th centuries: Great Britain; France; Germany; Russia; Italy; Austro-Hungarian Empire and Eastern Europe; Ottoman Empire
13. 1905 Russian Revolution, Balkan Wars and World War I
14. The October Revolution
15. The Treaties of Paris and their consequences
16. The first post-war period, the Red (1919-20) and Black (1921-22) Biennium
17. Fascism in Italy and fascisms in Europe
18. The Weimar Republic and the Crisis of 1929
19. The Spanish Civil War
20. The Rise of Hitler and Nazism
21. The Second World War
22. The Second post-war in Europe (Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain and Portugal, Greece and Turkey)
23. Italy in the Republican period
24. The Cold War and some hot scenarios (Korean War, Vietnam War, Cuban Crisis; War in Afghanistan etc.)
25. The start of the European integration process
26. Sixty-eight and the new political, social and cultural demands
27. Globalisation and decolonisation. New states and crisis areas: China; India; Israel; the Middle East; South-East Asia; Central and South America; Africa
28. Fall of the Berlin Wall and dissolution of the Soviet empire
29. From bipolarism to multilateralism
30. New radicalisations and international terrorism (attack on the Twin Towers)

SUGGESTED PRE-REQUISITE QUALIFICATIONS

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FINAL EXAM

a) Oral exam **or**
b) one open written examination in order to assess the level of knowledge of the subject acquired by the student: two questions three/four pages (70%). The final mark will also be based on the evaluation of the research/paper that each student must hand in at the end of the Course – two/three pages (30%)

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The final exam aims at assessing:

1. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING: the student's acquisition of the basic notions relating to the nineteen macro-areas listed in the detailed teaching program.
2. APPLIED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING: the final examination will assess the student's ability to link the various topics covered.
3. COMMUNICATION SKILLS: the final exam will assess, in addition to the content of the answers, the ability to appropriately evaluate the terms of the scientific terminology and effectively explain the topics studied.

MARKING CRITERIA

The exams will assess both the knowledge and the ability to apply the tools acquired. The final mark will be determined by:

1. the degree of knowledge of historical events and topics included in the thirty macro-areas listed above in the detailed teaching program;
2. the ability to link critically contemporary political, mediatic and technological events;
3. the knowledge of the dynamics that put political events in connection with each other and with the media rule;
4. the ability to effectively explain the topics studied with a written research/paper as well.

TEACHING MATERIALS

Mandatory teaching materials (for **attending students**):

1. teaching material (slides) provided by the lecturer for the entire course
2. N. Lowe, J. Traynor, *Mastering Modern World History*, Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, 2022 (pp. 720) (**only Part I**)
3. A. Briggs, P. Burke, *A Social History of the Media: From Gutenberg to the Internet*, Polity, 2010 (320 pages)

Mandatory teaching materials (for **non-attending students**) (that is who have not attended at least 75% of classes):

1. teaching material (slides) provided by the lecturer for the entire course
2. N. Lowe, J. Traynor, *Mastering Modern World History*, Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, 2022 (pp. 720) (**whole volume**)
3. A. Briggs, P. Burke, *A Social History of the Media: From Gutenberg to the Internet*,

Polity, 2010 (320 pages)

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS
Active class participation is highly recommended.