

course	Contemporary History
ects (cfu)	9
year running	1°
semester	second
lecturer	Filippo Maria Giordano
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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. **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. It 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 various areas of the world (such as Europe, America, Asia and Africa.). The course aims also to analyse the main themes of Contemporary History of the 19th and 20th century and the first decade of the new millennium highlighting particularly significant processes.
2. **APPLIED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING:** students will develop the ability to discern the causes, characteristics and consequences of the main events, facts and stages of Contemporary History. The course also aims to give students the ability to link together different historical aspects to different perspectives: ideological, political, social, economic, and cultural. 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. **MAKING JUDGEMENTS:** the course aims to develop a critical approach to the relationship between historical trends in the Contemporary Era. Students will be able to understand in-depth the changes brought by new ideologies and social movements in a globalised world and their impact on political decisions.
4. **LEARNING SKILLS:** students will be able to develop and improve their learning skills through lectures, class discussion and the study and analysis of texts, active participation in seminars and meetings.

## 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 thirty 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**

Oral exam.

## 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 final mark will be awarded on the basis of the above-mentioned teaching assessment criteria, also taking into account the intensity and quality of the student's participation in lectures. Active attendance of lectures will count for 10% of the final mark. Participation in any seminars and meetings organised by the lecturer, with the preparation of a written paper on the topics addressed in the course, will contribute a further 30% of the final mark. Non-attending students (that is who have not attended at least 75% of classes) will also be assessed on an additional text from among those indicated as specified in the section on teaching materials.

## 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)
3. one volume to choose from the following (or another to be agreed with the lecturer):
  - E. Hobsbawm, *Age of Revolution: 1789-1848*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2010
  - E. Hobsbawm, *Age of Capital: 1848-1875*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2010
  - E. Hobsbawm, *Age of Empire: 1875-1914*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2010
  - D. Kenley, *Modern Chinese History*, Association for Asian Studies, 2012
  - M. Galeotti, *A Short History of Russia*, Ebury Publishing, 2022
  - R.V. Remini, *A Short History of the United States: From the Arrival of Native American Tribes to the Obama Presidency*, HarperCollins Publishers Inc, 2009 (only some chapters)
  - J.C. Jansen, J. Osterhammel, *Decolonization: A Short History*, Princeton University Press, 2017
  - C. Goeschel, *Mussolini and Hitler: The Forging of the Fascist Alliance*, Yale University Press, 2020
  - P. Mansfield, *A History of the Middle East*, Penguin Books Ltd, 2019 (only some chapters)
  - R.J. McMahon, *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2021

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)
3. two volumes to choose from the list above.

### **FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Active class participation is highly recommended.