

Code: M-STO/04

Credits: 8

Matter: Contemporary History

Main language of instruction: Italian

Other language of instruction: English

Teaching Staff

Head instructor

Prof. Silvio Berardi – silvio.berardi@unicusano.it

Dr. Matteo Antonio Napolitano – matteo.napolitano@unicusano.it

Introduction

1. Objective of the course :

The course of Contemporary History aims to provide students with a basic understanding of the contemporary world scene (Nineteenth and Twentieth century). The course will consist of lectures devoted to an examination of the indicated period's most significant aspects: political revolutions, industrial revolutions, the birth of political opinions (liberalism, democracy, socialism, nationalism), imperialism and colonialism, World Wars, the emergence of political movements in the Twentieth century, Cold War and history of Italy.

Objectives

2. Course Structure:

The course aims to give students an overview of the major events of the Nineteenth and Twentieth century, nationally and internationally. The course will be built to allow students to possess the elements necessary for the study of history. We will focus the attention on the historical perspective and on the historiographical critic of the events.

Competencies:

- To explain the main historical dynamics related to the Nineteenth and Twentieth century.
- In-depth historiographical analysis.
- Providing interpretative tools of contemporary reality.
- To acquire skills for independent learning.



- To be able to create arguments which are conducive to critical and self-critical thinking.
- To be able to retrieve and manage information.

Syllabus

3. Programme of the course:

Subject 1. The Nineteenth century

- 1) Introduction
- 2) The French Revolution (First Part)
- 3) The French Revolution (Second Part)
- 4) The rise of Napoleon
- 5) The Napoleonic Empire
- 6) The Congress of Vienna
- 7) The revolutions of 1820-21
- 8) The revolutions of 1830-31
- 9) Giuseppe Mazzini and the Italian context
- 10) The July Revolution
- 11) The revolutions of 1848
- 12) Italian Risorgimento
- 13) German Unification
- 14) The Franco-Prussian War
- 15) Paris Commune and French Third Republic
- 16) Nations and Empires
- 17) Imperialism and Colonialism
- 18) The Civil War in USA
- 19) Bismarck's policies and Wilhelm II

Subject 2. The Twentieth century

- 20) The causes of World War I
- 21) The First World War (First Part)
- 22) The First World War (Second Part)
- 23) Russia in revolution: 1905 and 1917
- 24) The Paris Conference and the Treaty of Versailles
- 25) Fascism in Italy
- 26) The Great Depression
- 27) Stalinism
- 28) Nazism



- 29) Civil War in Spain
- 30) The Munich Crisis
- 31) The Second World War (First Part)
- 32) The Second World War (Second Part)
- 33) Participation and Resistance in occupied Europe
- 34) The origins of the Cold War (First Part)
- 35) The origins of the Cold War (Second Part)
- 36) The division of Europe
- 37) The “de-Stalinization” of Europe
- 38) Italy after Fascism
- 39) Decolonization
- 40) De Gaulle and the Fifth Republic
- 41) Beginnings of a European Union
- 42) Kennedy and Khrushchev
- 43) The Cuban Missile Crisis
- 44) The Vietnam War
- 45) The Suez Crisis
- 46) The Arab-Israeli Conflict
- 47) The revolutions of 1968
- 48) The Communism in Eastern Europe
- 49) Gorbachev and the crisis of Communism
- 50) The revolutions of Eastern Europe
- 51) The contemporary world (First Part)
- 52) The contemporary world (Second Part)

Evaluation system and criteria

The assessments of course is based on the following criteria:

Students assessment (oral or written examination) will be based on the ability to articulate a coherent discourse on the historical perspectives of the events covered during the course.

The written exam will have two parts:

- 1) **Four (4) multiple choice answers.** The student should tick the right answer: **1 point** per question.
- 2) **Three (3) written questions.** That questions will correspond to a specific point headings contained in the program: **maximum 9 points** per question.

Bibliography and resources

4. Materials to consult:

Briggs A., Clavin P., *Modern Europe. 1789-present*, London, Pearson-Longman, 2003.

5. Recommended bibliography:

- Berti G., *Libertà senza rivoluzione: l'anarchismo fra la sconfitta del comunismo e la vittoria del capitalismo*, Manduria, Lacaita, 2012.
- Graziosi A., *L'URSS dal trionfo al degrado: storia dell'Unione Sovietica 1945-1991*, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2011.
- Pecora G., *Socialismo come libertà. La storia lunga di Gaetano Salvemini*, Roma, Donzelli, 2012.
- Ridolfi M., Tesoro M., *Monarchia e Repubblica: istituzioni, culture e rappresentazioni politiche in Italia (1848- 1948)*, Milano, Mondadori, 2011.
- Chabod F., *L'idea di nazione*, a cura di A. Saitta ed E. Sestan, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2010.
- Giovagnoli A., *Storia e globalizzazione*, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2010.
- Rossi G., *L'Africa verso l'unità (1945-2000). Dagli Stati indipendenti all'Atto di Unione di Lomè*, Roma, Nuova Cultura, 2010.
- Parlato G., *Fascisti senza Mussolini: le origini del neofascismo in Italia, 1943-1948*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2006.
- De Felice R., *Le interpretazioni del fascismo*, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2005.
- Sabbatucci G., Vidotto V., *Storia contemporanea. L'Ottocento*, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2005 (o altra edizione).
- Sabbatucci G., Vidotto V., *Storia contemporanea. Il Novecento*, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2005 (o altra edizione).

- Barbagallo F., Storia contemporanea: l'Ottocento e il Novecento, Roma, Carocci, 2002.
- Colarizi S., Storia dei partiti nell'Italia repubblicana, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 1997.
- Ciuffoletti Z., Federalismo e regionalismo: da Cattaneo alla Lega, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 1994.
- Gervasoni M., La Francia in nero. Storia dell'estrema destra dalla Rivoluzione a Marine Le Pen, Venezia, Marsilio, 2017.
- Pardini G., Prove tecniche di rivoluzione. L'attentato a Togliatti, luglio 1948, Milano, Luni, 2018.