



**Italian code: HIST-02/A**

**Credits: 12**

**Course: Early Modern History**

**Main language of instruction: Italian**

**Other language of instruction: English**

**Academic Year: 2025-2026**

**Head instructor**

**Professor Alessia LIROSI - [alessia.lirosi@unicusano.it](mailto:alessia.lirosi@unicusano.it)**

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**Objectives**

The course aims to provide the students with a good understanding of the phenomena that occurred from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as well as their connection with the Present, that they have helped to build. Main religious, social, economic and political concerns will be examined along with the historiographical debate about them.

In other words, the course focuses on:

- examining the events that occurred from the end of the 15th century to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century
- exploring the main issues of the early modern age
- illustrating the causes and ratio underlying the occurrences of the period
- highlighting their long-term consequences and influence on Present times
- illustrating and meditating on the historiographical debate.

**Competencies**

*A. Knowledge and understanding:*

At the end of the course, the students will know the main topic of the early modern age and their related problems, connecting concepts and questions through different centuries.

*B. Applying knowledge and understanding:*



Thanks to the information acquired, the students will develop a greater awareness of the socio-religious and economic-political transformations in the long term and will be also able to deepen and discuss their consequences on the current social, political and religious phenomena.

*C. Making judgements:*

At the end of the course, the students the student will have refined their capacity to autonomously and critically interpret historical dynamics. Furthermore, they will have sharpened the skill to formulate complex judgments on the social and ethical responsibilities connected to their knowledge.

*D. Communication skills:*

The students will be able to describe and discuss the topic examined in the course, as well as the *ratio* underlying them, both with peers or non-specialist interlocutors, and with specialists including the wider academic community.

*E. Learning skills:*

At the end of the course, the students will have developed those learning skills that are necessary to undertake further studies with a high degree of autonomy. Moreover they will have the competence to participate in different contexts and to contribute to the social and cultural advancement of society.

## **Syllabus**

### **Subject 1 – Europe at the End of the Middle Ages**

- Lesson 1. Political situation
- Lesson 2. Economic panorama
- Lesson 3. Individual, Culture, Society
- Lesson 4. Religious ferments and ripples

### **Subject 2 – European Powers at the Beginning of Early Modern Age**

- Lesson 1. Portugal and Spain
- Lesson 2. The Holy Roman Empire
- Lesson 3. France and England
- Lesson 4. Italy: land of conquest

### **Subject 3 – Beyond Europe**



- Lesson 1. Overseas Exploration
- Lesson 2. The American Discovery
- Lesson 3. The Ottoman Empire
- Lesson 4. New People and Markets

**Subject 4 – Cultural and Intellectual Life in 1400-1600**

- Lesson 1. Humanism and Renaissance
- Lesson 2. Baroque
- Lesson 3. Political Theory
- Lesson 4. Music, Drama, Literature

**Subject 5 – Religious Reforms**

- Lesson 1. The Protestant Reformation
- Lesson 2. Reformation and Social changes
- Lesson 3. Religious Wars
- Lesson 4. The Reformation in England
- Lesson 5. Catholic Reformation

**Subject 6 – Politics and Power in 1600s**

- Lesson 1. The Absolutism in Europe
- Lesson 2. The Dutch Economic Prosperity
- Lesson 3. From Religious Wars to Power Politics
- Lesson 4. The English Revolutions

**Subject 7 – Changes in European map during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

- Lesson 1. The War of the Spanish Succession
- Lesson 2. The War of the Polish Succession
- Lesson 3. The War of the Austrian Succession

**Subject 8 – New Visions**

- Lesson 1. Ancient Authorities and Scientific Revolution
- Lesson 2. Theories on Property and National Economies
- Lesson 3. The New European Economic Powers
- Lesson 4. The New European Military Powers

**Subject 9 – New Mentalities**

- Lesson 1. The Enlightenment
- Lesson 2. “Enlightened” Rulers
- Lesson 3. Newspapers, Debates, Public Opinion



### **Subject 10 – The Image of the “Other”**

Lesson 1. Gender Issues and Women’s Condition

Lesson 2. Witchcraft

Lesson 3. Judaism

Lesson 4. Christianity versus Islam

Lesson 5. Indigenous People and Slavery

### **Subject 11 – The Industrial Revolution**

Lesson 1. Proto-industry, Guilds, Manufactories

Lesson 2. New Agriculture Techniques

Lesson 3. Population Growth

Lesson 4. Banks and Capital

Lesson 5. Industrialization

### **Subject 12 – The Beginning of the Age of the Revolutions**

Lesson 1. Different Kind and Levels of Rights

Lesson 2. The American Revolution

Lesson 3. Towards the End of the *Ancien Régime* in France

### **Evaluation system and criteria**

The examination consists of:

- a (individual) written test with multiple-choice questions
- or an oral (individual) exam.

### **Bibliography and resources**

*Materials to consult:* Write to Professor Lirosi for checking out the texts to study.