



**Code: GSPS-04/B**

**Credits: 9**

**Subject: History of International Relations**

**Main language of instruction: Italian**

**Other language of instruction: English**

## **Teaching Staff**

### **Head instructor**

Prof. Silvio Berardi – [silvio.berardi@unicusano.it](mailto:silvio.berardi@unicusano.it)

### **Prerequisites**

Basic knowledge of Contemporary History.

### **Objectives**

The course in History of International Relations aims to provide students with a basic knowledge of some of the essential junctures in the international politics of the 20th century (from 1919 onwards) and the New Millennium by offering them the tools for interpreting today's international system.

### **Competencies:**

The course will be divided into lectures dedicated to the examination of some of the most significant aspects relating to the period indicated, including the study of the sources of the history of international relations, the international order formed in the aftermath of the Great War, the revisionist perspectives of the States antagonistic to the Paris Conference equilibrium, War Diplomacy, the bipolar order, the study of the scenarios following the end of the Cold War, the multilateralism of the New Millennium.

### **Syllabus**

*Programme:*

#### **Modules 1-5**

- Course Introduction: structure, content, and methodological notes.
- The Origins of the History of International Relations.
- Sources for the History of International Relations (1-5).
- The Prerequisites of the 1919 Peace Conference (1-3).
- Italy at the 1919 Peace Conference.
- The United States and Wilson's Fourteen Points.



- Comparing Security System Proposals.
- Germany and the Treaty of Versailles.
- Scenarios Arising from the Paris Peace Conference (1919) (1-2).
- The New Global Balance of the 1920s (1-2):
  - The Turkish Question (1-2).
  - The Washington Conference and the Issue of German Reparations.
- Towards European Collective Security.
- The Zenith of Collective Security.
- The Failure of the "Spirit of Locarno".
- From the 1929 Crash to the Proclamation of the Third Reich.
- From the Four-Power Pact to the Origins of the Policy of Appeasement.
- German Revisionism and the Italian Conquest of Ethiopia.
- Towards the Second World War.
- The Great Powers in the Second World War.
- From Yalta to Potsdam.
- The New International Balance at the End of the Second World War.

#### **Modules 6-10**

- Review of Key Historical Milestones.
- An Iron Curtain in Europe.
- The Bipolar Balance of Power.
- The Italian Eastern Border and the Trieste Question.
- Post-War International Political Scenarios.
- The Sovietisation of Eastern Europe.
- The Public Use of History in Latvia and Lithuania.
- The Atlantic Alliance, the Origins of European Integration, and the Korean War.
- The EDC (European Defence Community) Treaty.
- From Containment to Rollback.
- Towards Peaceful Coexistence?
- The Relaunch of European Integration and Repression in Eastern Europe.
- The Suez Crisis and its Consequences.
- The Arab-Israeli Conflict (1-2).
- The Radicalisation of the Confrontation and the Second Berlin Crisis.
- Kennedy, Khrushchev, and the Berlin Wall.
- The Strengthening of Bipolarism and De Gaulle's France.
- From the Prague Spring to Detente.
- From the Helsinki Spirit to the Reagan-Gorbachev Dialogue.
- The End of the Cold War and the Relaunch of European Construction.
- Beyond Bipolarity.
- New Dynamics in Post-Cold War Eastern Europe.

- The Special Relationship Amidst the International Crises of the New Millennium.
- The Great Recession, the Treaty of Lisbon, and the Obama Administration.
- Towards New International Scenarios.

### **Evaluation system and criteria**

Lectures of History of International Relations are held in Italian (English only under request). Erasmus+ students may however take the oral examination in English. The examination programme, which involves the use of texts available in the university library, must be agreed directly with the Professor through a student reception (online or in person). Erasmus+ students are advised to make contact with the Professor by email before embarking on the study of the subject.

### **Bibliography and resources**

#### *1. Materials to consult:*

For students intending to take the exam in Italian, the reference materials are available in the respective course folders uploaded to the platform. All teaching materials have been prepared by Prof. Berardi.

#### *2. Recommended bibliography:*

**Berardi S.**, *The European policy of the Italian Republican Party. From the origins of the Cold War to the ratification of the North Atlantic Treaty* (La Sapienza 2018).

**Bideleux R., Jeffries I.**, *A history of Eastern Europe. Crisis and change* (Routledge 1998).

**Briggs A., Clavin P.**, *Modern Europe, 1789-present* (Longman 2003).

**Kaiser W., Varsori A. (eds.)**, *European Union history. Themes and debates* (Palgrave Macmillan 2010).

**Van Meurs W. et al. (eds.)**, *The Unfinished history of European integration* (AUP 2018).

**Welsh J.M.**, *The return of history. Conflict, migration, and geopolitics in the Twenty-First century* (Anansi 2016).

**Westad, O.A.**, *The cold war. A world history* (Allen Lane 2017).

**Williams A.J., Hadfield A., Rofe J.S.**, *International history and international relations* (Routledge 2012).