



Code: HIST-03/A

Credits: 12

Subject: Contemporary History

Main language of instruction: Italian

Other language of instruction: English

Teaching Staff

Head instructor

Prof. Matteo Antonio Napolitano – matteoantonio.napolitano@unicusano.it

Prerequisites

There are no specific prerequisites for access to the course.

Objectives

The course in Contemporary History aims to provide students with a basic knowledge of the events of the contemporary world (19th and 20th centuries), offering them the tools for interpreting contemporary reality.

Competencies:

The course will be divided into lectures dedicated to the examination of some of the most significant aspects relating to the events of the contemporary world, including *e.g.* the political revolutions, the industrial revolutions, the birth of political currents (liberalism, democracy, socialism, nationalism) in the 19th century, the imperialist and colonialist outlook, the two world wars, the birth of political movements in the 20th century, the Cold War and the East/West opposition, the history of republican Italy.

Syllabus

Programme:

Topic 1. From French Revolution to 1848

Topic 2. 1848 in Europe and the Unification of Italy

Topic 3. From German Unification to 19th-Century Colonialism

Topic 4. Power Politics and Late 19th-Century Italy

Topic 5. Between the Great War and the Rise of Fascism

Topic 6. From Weimar to the Second World War

Topic 7. The Cold War

Topic 8. From the 1960s to the 1990s

Topic 9. Historiographical insights

Topic 10. Political systems of the leading contemporary international actors throughout the key stages of their historical evolution (1): USA

Topic 11. Political systems of the leading contemporary international actors throughout the key stages of their historical evolution (2): the United Kingdom

Topic 12. Political systems of the leading contemporary international actors throughout the key stages of their historical evolution (3): China

Evaluation system and criteria

Lectures of Contemporary History 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. Napolitano.

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).