# History of Civilisation and European Culture

## Prof. Paolo Valvo

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to explore the themes and problems of the European cultural identity through different historical time periods, highlighting how knowledge of the past is an indispensable resource for building an inclusive society in the current context of ethnic, cultural and religious pluralism.

At the end of the course, students will have a greater awareness of the different cultural contributions that have forged the mentality and lifestyles of European peoples, helping to shape the social and political institutions of today's Europe. This knowledge will support future educators in designing effective interventions in the context of integration and intercultural mediation, starting with the enhancement of the historical and cultural heritage of the territory.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will examine the main historical contributions to European identity, focusing on the ideas of Europe that have developed up to the birth of the European Union and on the ideal and territorial frontiers (from Islam to Orthodox Christianity, from the Far East to the new American world) that have allowed the continent to develop its own cultural profile. In this perspective, the historical and urbanistic evolution of European cities will also be the subject of in-depth study, with the awareness that the construction of urban space still represents the privileged field in which European civilization is called upon to measure its ability to integrate people and communities with the most diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Among the challenges that the pluralism of identities and cultures (in Europe and more generally in the West) puts on the agenda of the current debate, special attention will also be devoted to the "cancel culture", whose contingent as well as long-term roots will be investigated, and to the identity and geopolitical tensions that form the background to the recent Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

***READING LIST***

Students are required to study the following volume:

F. Chabod, *Storia dell’idea di Europa*, Laterza, Roma-Bari, 202011

and one essay of their choice from the following:

G. Amato - E. Galli della Loggia, *Europa perduta?*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2014

S. Belardinelli, *L’ordine di Babele. Le culture tra pluralismo e identità*, Rubbettino, Soveria Mannelli, 2018

F.-X. Bellamy, *Dimora. Per sfuggire all’era del movimento perpetuo*, Itaca, Castel Bolognese, 2019

S.A. Bellezza, *Il destino dell’Ucraina. Il futuro dell’Europa*, Scholè, Brescia, 2022

A. De Gasperi, *Europa. Scritti e discorsi*, Morcelliana, Brescia, 20192

A. Finkielkraut, *L’identità infelice*, Guanda, Parma, 2015

L. Gudkov - V. Zaslavsky, *La Russia da Gorbaciov a Putin*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2010

F. Magni, *La libertà di espressione nelle Università tra USA ed Europa. Una prospettiva pedagogica*, Studium, Roma, 2022

A. Musarra, *Processo a Colombo. Scoperta o sterminio?*, La Vela, Viareggio, 2018

A. Panebianco - S. Belardinelli, *All’alba di un nuovo mondo*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2019

F. Rampini, *Fermare Pechino. Capire la Cina per salvare l’Occidente*, Mondadori, Milano, 2021

J. Ratzinger Benedetto XVI, *La vera Europa. Identità e missione*, Introduzione di Papa Francesco, Cantagalli, Siena, 2021

M. Romano, *Liberi di costruire*, Bollati Boringhieri, Torino, 2013

O. Roy, *L’Europa è ancora cristiana? Cosa resta delle nostre radici religiose*, Feltrinelli, Milano, 2019

P. Rumiz, *Il filo infinito. Viaggio alle radici d’Europa*, Feltrinelli, Milano, 2019

Some information to facilitate the choice of the volumes will be provided by the lecturer in class. Students may choose to discuss one of the volumes in the classroom at the end of the course, thus anticipating part of the exam; for obvious didactic reasons, however, it will not be possible to organise more than one presentation for each volume.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures. The teaching method will encourage active participation of students, who will be invited to critically reflect on current events starting from the contents learnt during the course, and will be supplemented with audio-visual, iconographic and textual documentation.

Video recordings of lessons and classroom materials will be made available weekly on the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is oral. Assessment will take into account students’ mastery and critical reworking of the contents learnt during the course, as well as their clarity of presentation and ability to adequately justify the statements and analyses developed during the exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no content-related prerequisites for attending the course.

*Time and place of reception for students*

During the lecture period, Prof. Valvo receives students before and after lectures. He is always available by appointment (in person or on the Teams platform), to be arranged by e-mail (paoloantonio.valvo@unicatt.it).

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at <https://docenti.unicatt.it/ppd2/it/docenti/27954/paolo-antonio-benedetto-valvo/profilo> or on the Faculty notice board.