# History of the Contemporary World

## Prof. Daniele Bardelli

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

Within the general framework of the history of the twentieth century, the course aims to provide adequate cultural tools for an understanding and a historical analysis of contemporaneity, stimulating students’ development of autonomous ability and responsibility for critical judgment concerning the crucial historiographic issues of the twentieth century. At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* identify and analyse the most relevant issues of the twentieth century with adequate historical-critical tools, placing them in the context of short and long-term causal and consequential links with interdisciplinary perspectives;
* approach the problems of the past with awareness and autonomy in order to recognise the dynamics that are also active in the present time, and to design and implement effective educational and training interventions in the professional field;
* understand and use the appropriate subject-specific lexicon.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course addresses the study of the following themes that characterise the history of the twentieth century, presenting them from an interpretative point of view within the general framework of events and transformation processes of the political, social, and cultural systems in which they are set and which will be reconstructed in the introductory lessons of each of the six modules:

In the first semester:

* Western civilization: the body discipline and the male and female anthropological models between the nineteenth century and the 2000s. From sexual to gender identity;
* nations and nationalisms yesterday and today: “religious” character, diffusion, persistence of a global phenomenon;
* the First World War between the massacre industrialisation and regeneration myths: the debut of the “short century”;

in the second semester:

* totalitarianism/totalitarianisms: the characteristics and historical orientations of twentieth century “political religions” and Italian fascism; the Second World War; interpretations of resistance; the problematic link between history and memory;
* globalisation: crisis of the national model in the digital “global village”?

***READING LIST***

General reference text:

*-* A.M. Banti, *Le questioni dell’età contemporanea,* Roma-Bari, Laterza 2020: only the parts related to the course topics (pp. 43-58; 124-150; 153-168; 200-209; 231-244; 280-284; 305-314);

For the first semester a volume to choose from:

*-* F. Chabod, *L’idea di nazione,* Laterza, Rome-Bari 2008 (1961)

- G. Mosse, *Sessualità e nazionalismo. Mentalità borghese e rispettabilità,* Laterza, Rome-Bari 2019

(1996)

- A. Ventrone, *Grande guerra e Novecento. La storia che ha cambiato il mondo,* Donzelli, Roma 2015; or

Id., *La seduzione totalitaria: guerra, modernità, violenza politica (1914-1918),* Donzelli, Roma 2004;

For the second semester a volume to choose from:

- R. De Felice, *Intervista su fascismo,* with introduction by G. Belardinelli, Laterza, Bari-Rome 2019

(1997); *or* G. Mosse, *Intervista sul nazismo,* Laterza, Rome-Bari 2021 (1997)

- S. Peli, *Storia della Resistenza in Italia,* Einaudi, Turin 2015 (2006)

- C. Fumian, *Verso una società planetaria. Alle origini della globalizzazione contemporanea (1870-*

*1914),* Donzelli, Rome 2004

During the course, the lecturer may provide additional textbooks to choose from in relation to the specific interests of the students.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Based on lectures, supported by iconographic and audio-visual elements and contributions, the teaching method will aim to stimulate the active participation of students, including moments and spaces for discussion also *online* through the Forum which, together with all the course material produced, will be accessible from the Blackboard platform of the University.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists of an oral test (interview), which can be taken in two parts with an optional interim test (starting from January-February 2024 session) on the topics covered in the first semester and on the contents of the relative volume chosen in the reading list. The exam can be completed starting from the summer session dates. Students may divide the exam into two parts also later. The final mark will result from the average of the outcomes of the two parts. The criteria considered in the assessment will be the following:

* knowledge of the course and reading list contents;
* understanding the contextual links of events and transformations in the cultural, social and political spheres,
* the ability to link specific issues to more general ones,
* correctness and effectiveness in presentations and analyses.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no specific prerequisites for attending the course, other than the basic knowledge normally acquired during the upper secondary school.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG> or on the Faculty notice board.