# History of International Relations and Institutions

## Prof. Gianluca Pastori

## **International Contemporary History (for GEOR Students)**

## Prof. Gianluca Pastori

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

The course aims to provide an overview of the evolution of the international system in the period between the Congress of Vienna and the present day, highlighting the main events and the deep political, economic and social forces underlying this evolution.

***Intended learning outcomes***

*Knowledge and understanding*

During the course, students will acquire:

1. have a clear overview of the historical evolution of the international system, and the dynamics on which it is based;
2. interpret international phenomena adopting a “long-term” perspective, and identify their relationships, as well as their causes and consequences.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. interpret the actual international scenario and its transformations from a broader perspective, able to change over time and interact with an articulated complex of economic, social, and cultural dynamics;
2. use proper terminology to express the concepts, correlations, and historical analysis typical of this subject;
3. develop the methodological skills allowing them to combine the different topics explained during the course (and the relationships existing between them) with other elements acquired during their learning pathways, and therefore adopt the multi-disciplinary approach that is typical of this Faculty.

Autonomous judging skills, communicative skills and learning skills

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Autonomously elaborate judgments and evaluations of the historical development of the international relations system, identifying the deep roots of current phenomena and the existing affinities/differences between contemporary dynamics and those of the past.

2. Present judgments and evaluations in an organic and structured way and support their position through references to appropriate linguistic, historical and theoretical-interpretive tools.

3. Autonomously expand their knowledge by selecting sources and materials in a conscious and methodologically sound manner, including from a multidisciplinary perspective.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. The years of apparent stability: the European order from the Congress of Vienna to the First World War (1814-1918).
2. From the initial post-war period to the Second World War: the new subjects and the seeds of a new order (1919-1945).
3. Cold war, hot wars: politics, weapons and diplomacy in the years of bipolar confrontation (1945-1991).
4. Ten years of transition: 1991-2001.
5. The world after September 11: between old logics and new constellations of power.

***READING LIST***

The course reading list includes the following texts:

O. Barié, *Dal sistema europeo alla Comunità mondiale. Storia delle relazioni internazionali dal Congresso di Vienna alla fine della Guerra fredda,* vol. I, *Il sistema europeo*, vol. II, *Verso la Comunità mondiale*, Celuc, Milan, 1999-2005.

Further information on the reading list will be made available on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures, possibly supplemented with practical exercises, conferences and testimonies on specific topics.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final oral exam is structured in a number of questions on various parts of the course and possible exercises. The final mark is out of thirty. The questions aim to assess students’ acquired knowledge and skills, their ability to express themselves correctly and accurately, their mastery of subject-specific terms and concepts and chronological sequencing. The exam takes place with the course lecturer and/or an assistant teacher, and it is based on three questions on topics covered in the course and exercises. Each question is worth up to ten points out of thirty of the final mark. Students who obtain a mark equal to or higher than 18/30 pass the exam. The highest mark is 30/30; deserving cases may also be awarded honours (*lode*) to their mark. At the end of the first semester, there is a partial test, the outcome of which contributes to the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In order to get the most out of this course, students are supposed to have a good knowledge of modern and contemporary history. In addition, the use of a historical atlas is highly recommended. Further teaching material and communications will be made available on Blackboard (e.g. when classes or consulting hours/dates are suspended and/or cancelled, or in case there are communications on extra lessons, changes to the reading list, special meetings, lectures, and practical classes).

All the students (regardless of class attendance) who selected this course for their degree curriculum (including supplementary year students) are invited to enrol on Blackboard as well.

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.