# History of Civilisation and Cultural Policy

## Prof. Andrea Plebani

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

The aim of the course is to introduce and explore the main historical dynamics of international relations from the First World War onwards, emphasising the complex nature and multi-faceted historical, socio-political and cultural heritage of the world’s various macro-regions. There will be a particular focus on the main events of the twentieth century, the transition from the bipolar to the post-bipolar system and the Middle East crisis, in order to provide tools for better interpreting and understanding the present situation.

i) *Conoscenza e comprensione*

At the end of the course, students will have an overview of the main historical processes that have shaped the 20th century and the beginning of the new millennium. They will be able to contextualise them and analyse events in light of the complex nature, power dynamics and socio-political forces of the period. Students will also be able to look at the current international context from a long-term perspective.

ii) *Applying acquired* *knowledge*

Students will formulate critical observations on the development of socio-political, cultural and security-related institutions of the areas examined. They will have a critical approach to current literature and documentary, editorial and media sources and be able to critically evaluate the development of the international scenario.

iii) *Capacity for critical analysis and communication skills*

By studying the history of civilisation and political cultures, students will improve their capacity for analysing the historical events of the 20th and the early 21st centuries. They will also be better able to understand the current context, appreciating breaks with the past as well as the main elements of continuity. Students’ learning will be supported through presentations, seminars and debates. At the end of the course, students will be able to critically appraise the international context and use sector-specific terminology and the appropriate analytical tools.

***COURSE CONTENT***

* The international order at the beginning of 20th century
* The First World War and its impact on the international system
* The failure of the security policy between the two World Wars
* The Second World War and the sunset of the Empires
* The emergence of the two Blocs and the beginning of the Cold War
* The Cuban Missile Crisis and first signs of the détente.
* 1979, a year of great change: Afghanistan, Egypt-Israel, Iraq and Iran
* The last phase of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union
* The post-bipolar period and illusions of the new world order
* 2001 and gradual global reconfiguration
* The impact of Jihadi threat on the international system
* The arc of the crisis in the Middle East and its various components

***READING LIST***

A. Varsori, *Storia internazionale. Dal 1919 a oggi,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2020.

* Teaching materials and texts for further reading made available on the blackboard during the course should be considered part of the reading list

\* *For foreign students* the following volume is also recommended: W.R. Keylor, *The Twentieth-Century World and Beyond: An International History since 1900,* Oxford University Press (6th rev. ed., 2011).

* **Reading list for students taking curricular supplements/supplementary examination, includes**
  + the Volume A. Varsori, *Storia internazionale. Dal 1919 a oggi*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2020
  + slides published on the Blackboard page of the course (materials section – excluded those one regarding chapters 1,2,3 of the volume by Professor Varsori)
* The reading list **for students who must sit for a supplementary interview** includes:
  + A. Varsori*, Storia internazionale. Dal 1919 a oggi*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2020 – ONLY chapters 8, 9, 10
  + slides published on the Blackboard page of the course (materials section – only those regarding chapters 8, 9, 10 of the volume by Professor Varsori)

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, seminars on specific topics and talks from experts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is designed to assess students’ ability to critically analyse course content and respond to theories and case studies by reiterating the knowledge they have acquired and presenting sound arguments. Except in special cases, students will be examined by means of a written exam.

The written exam is divided into two modules and will have a maximum duration of 90 minutes.

* The first comprises a series of false/true multiple-choice questions for a maximum mark of 18/30. The pass mark for this paper is 10/30.
* The second module consists of an open-ended question for a maximum mark of 12/30. The marks for both papers will be combined to calculate the overall mark.

The exam will instead be held in oral form (**subject to confirmation by the teacher**)

* by students accepted by the *Services for the integration of students with disabilities and SpLDs*
* by foreign students who prefer to take the exam in English
* should the number of students signed up for the round be particularly low;
* for students who have to take a curricular supplement / supplementary exam or a supplementary interview

- in the remaining cases envisaged by the University related to the pandemic situation and the Ukrainian crisis

The oral exam will consist of a sequence of open questions.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Owing to its introductory nature, there are no prerequisites in terms of course content. Intellectual curiosity and an interest in the subject area are nevertheless expected, and students are advised to focus particularly on the geographical dimension of the events covered by the course, by using historical atlases and online maps (e.g. the Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection [*Https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/*](about:blank)).

Attendance is strongly advised. Updated syllabus and reading list, any instructions and other documents will be published on the course Blackboard platform.

The Blackboard platform will also be used to communicate timetable changes, exam information and more. All students (attending and non-attending alike; studying within the standard course timeframe or otherwise i.e. *in corso* and *fuori corso* respectively) should register on the course on Blackboard and keep themselves updated.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

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.