History of Contemporary China

Prof. Giulia Sciorati

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

The course aims to provide students with a general knowledge of the history of contemporary China and China in global history.

The course starts with an exploration of the radical changes that took place in China following the Opium Wars in the mid-19th century. It will then retrace the main historical developments and profound transformations that characterize China’s history throughout the entire 20th century. The course will focus in particular on the history of the People’s Republic of China from 1949 to today, examining key periods such as the Great Leap Forward (1958), the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), and the 1989 Tian’anmen crisis.

The course will also place China in the context of its international relations throughout the 20th century and up to the present day, introducing students to the country’s transition to the new millennium.

By the end of the course, students will be able to navigate China’s contemporary history, contextualize the events studied, and make logical links between them. Students will also develop critical skills and communication capabilities through discussions and/or presentations in class.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Introduction to the history of modern and contemporary China.

– Mao’s China in the 1950s.

– The Cultural Revolution.

– Deng Xiaoping and the “Reform and Opening-Up”.

– 1989: Tian’anmen.

– The 1990s.

– The 2000s.

– China and the world: transformations and strategies in the 20th and 21st century.

***READING LIST***

**6 Ects credits programme**

In addition to mastering the topics studied in class, attending students are also required to study the following textbooks:

G. Samarani, *La Cina contemporanea*, Einaudi, 2017. Chapter 7, second and third parts.

B. Onnis, *La Cina nelle relazioni internazionali. Dalle guerre dell’oppio a oggi*, Carocci, 2011. Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Further readings to prepare for the exam may be indicated in due course.

Non-attending students will also study:

K. Brown, *Cina. Progetto finale*, LEG Edizioni, 2018.

**4 Ects credits programme**

In addition to mastering the topics studied in class, attending students are also required to study the following textbooks:

G. Samarani, *La Cina contemporanea*, Einaudi, 2017. Chapter 7, second and third parts.

B. Onnis, *La Cina nelle relazioni internazionali. Dalle guerre dell’oppio a oggi*, Carocci, 2011. Chapters 4 and 5.

Further readings to prepare for the exam may be indicated in due course.

Non-attending students will also study:

K. Brown, *Cina. Progetto finale*, LEG Edizioni, 2018. Chapters 1, 3, 4 and 5.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, including discussions on assigned readings, individual or group presentations, and “open lessons” with talks by Italian and Chinese experts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam aims to assess students’ knowledge and critical skills as well as their ability to express thoughts properly and use specialized terminology accurately.

The test is oral and includes three questions: two related to the history of contemporary China and one related to China in international relations. Non-attending students will also be asked a question on the topics discussed in *Cina. Progetto finale* (Brown 2018).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The teacher’s office hours will be communicated at the beginning of the course.

In the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University’s BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our 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.