# History of Contemporary Italy

## Prof. Maria Bocci

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

The course aims to provide students with knowledge of the main historical dynamics that have helped shape the current socio-cultural context. More specifically, the course aims to:

* foster awareness of the ways in which Italian modernisation of society took place after World War II;
* shed light on the changes seen in collective mentality and behaviour;
* develop cognitive skills and an ability to reflect, which allow a critically aware approach to the contemporary world.

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

* learn about the main historical phenomena that have contributed to creating contemporary society;
* develop critical understanding skills necessary to increase independent judgment skills, also in relation to educational and training interventions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will address the modernisation of Italian society in the second half of the twentieth century, focusing on the evolution of collective mentality and behaviour, especially with reference to young people. It will focus on the period from post-war reconstruction to the 1970s, an era of extraordinary economic growth and remarkable social transformations. It will pay particular attention to the economic *boom* and the advent of the consumer society, whose premises and social and cultural consequences will be analysed. Equally important will be the coverage of the crucial junction of the '68 protests, the result of the changes that occurred among the youth between the Fifties and Sixties, and in turn proved the vector of an anthropological transformation that would profoundly impact mentalities and lifestyles, redefining inter-generational and inter-gender relationships and inaugurating new forms of social and political activism. Of the social phenomena that most marked Italy in the aftermath of the protests, the course will specifically explore the feminist movement and the terrorism of the 1970s.

***READING LIST***

*Il grande cambiamento. La società italiana tra anni Cinquanta e Settanta*, testi selezionati da M. Bocci, Milano, Educatt, 2022

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lectures, supplemented with the support of iconographic and audiovisual documentation.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

An oral exam (interview).

Assessment will consider the following elements: knowledge and critical reworking of the studied contents; understanding of the contextual links between events; clear and effective speech; and ability to adequately motivate any statements and analyses made during the exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://www2.unicatt.it/unicattolica/docenti/index.html, or on the Faculty notice board.