**Modern and Contemporary History**

## Prof. Elena Riva

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

The general aim of the course is to offer students the opportunity to ponder some of the key approaches to the history of culture and European civilisation as factors of dialogue between civilisations in the modern and contemporary ages.

Specifically, the course aims are:

– provide students with knowledge of the ways of historical work while focusing on subject vocabulary, sources and general problems concerning historiographic interpretation;

– develop a critical approach to the study of the subject, whilst being aware of the causes and long-term relations between the present world and social-political-cultural developments in previous societies;

– understand contemporary society’s anthropic and social-cultural context in which social-educational dynamics arise;

– explore some of the important course topics from a teaching perspective.

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

– construct teaching paths structured upon important issues regarding modernity, also from an inter-disciplinary perspective;

– possess and develop an applied understanding of educational intervention via the awareness of the underlying historical and cultural dynamics;

– develop specific language pertaining to the subject.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course retraces the history of the main state models which developed during the modern and contemporary ages, via a continuous dialogue between past and present. The first part of the course (semester 1) focuses on the most important forms of European sovereignty during the beginning of the modern age. Subsequently (semester 2) the course will analyse the revolutionary caesura at the end of the eighteenth century and the Napoleonic age. Lectures will highlight key moments which led to the formation of the twentieth-century democracy and the fall of eurocentrism.

[Alongside the course lessons, Dr Luca Ceriotti will hold a cycle of exercises (10 hours) on the theme: “History of feelings in the society and family of the modern West" (beginning of the second semester, on dates that will be provided later). Participation in this didactic work will allow students to be exempted from studying the two in-depth readings included in the lists of optional titles of the reading list.]

***READING LIST***

In order to contextualise topics explored during the course, students may refer to a history textbook or one of the following volumes:

F. Benigno,*L’età moderna. Dalla scoperta dell’America alla Restaurazione*, Editori Laterza, Rome-Bari, 2005 and all other later editions or A. Musi, *Un vivaio di storia. L’Europa nel mondo moderno*, Biblion, 2020 (for the topics discussed in class in the first semester);

G. Sabbatucci-V. Vidotto, *Il mondo contemporaneo dal 1848 a oggi*, Laterza, Rome-Bari, 2008 (for the topics discussed in class in the second semester).

In addition to the course topics, students will complete their preparation with the **following** **textbooks**

**Compulsory reading for all students:**

E. Fiano, *Charleston.Storia di una grande famiglia travolta dalla Shoah,* Guerrini e Associati, Milano, 2021

**First part of the course (semester 1)**

- L. Hunt, *La forza dell’empatia. Storia dei diritti dell’uomo,* Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2018.

-A. Mikhail, *L’ombra di Dio. Selīm il sultano, il suo Impero ottomano e la creazione del mondo moderno,* Torino, Einaudi, 2021

-S. Bono, *Guerre corsare nel Mediterraneo. Una storia di incursioni, arrembaggi, razzie*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2019.

-S. W. Mintz, *Storia dello zucchero. Tra politica e cultura*, Torino, Einaudi, 2020.

-J. D. Popkin, *Haiti. Storia di una rivoluzione*, Einaudi, Torino, 2020.

-E. Novi Chavarria, *Accogliere e curare. Ospedali e culture delle nazioni nella Monarchia ispanica (secc. XVI-XVII)*, Roma, Viella, 2020.

- M. Rediker, *La nave negriera*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2014.

- D. Salomoni, *Magellano. Il primo viaggio intorno al mondo*; Roma, Laterza, 2022

**Second part of the course (semester 2)**

***Un testo a scelta tra:***

– B. Maida, *L’infanzia nelle guerre del* Novecento, Torino Einaudi, 2017.

– B. Maida*, La Shoah dei bambini. La persecuzione dell'infanzia ebraica in Italia (1938 1945)*, Torino, Einaudi, 2019

– B. Maida, *I treni dell’accoglienza. Infanzia, povertà e solidarietà nell'Italia del dopoguerra 1945-1948*, Einaudi, Torino, 2020.

– J. D. Popkin, *Haiti. Storia di una rivoluzione*, Einaudi, Torino, 2020.

– V. Criscuolo, *Ei fu. La morte di Napoleone*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2021

– L. Hunt, *La forza dell’empatia. Storia dei diritti dell’uomo,* Laterza, Roma-Bari, 2018

– E. Ertola, *In terra d’Africa. Gli italiani che colonizzarono l’Impero*, Laterza, Roma-Bari, 2017.

– S. Patriarca, *Il colore della Repubblica. «Figli della guerra» e razzismo nell’Italia post fascista*, Torino, Einaudi, 2021

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures. Sometimes lectures may take the form of seminars with scholars or specialists in various fields via interactive teaching. All course material will be optimised via the use of the Blackboard platform on the University website.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam will be taken orally starting from the summer session and may be preceded by a non-compulsory written test. Its procedure, scheduling, contents, and assessment criteria will be announced on the lecturer's Blackboard page in due course. Conversely, students who choose to take the entire final exam orally can divide it into two parts within the same exam session: in the first exam session they will take the interview on the topics covered in the modern history module (from Humanism to the Congress of Vienna). If they pass it, they will complete the exam on the topics contained in the contemporary history module (from the liberal uprisings of the 1920s to the Cold War).

The assessment criteria for each part of the exam will be: clarity of presentation (20%), knowledge of the general lines of the subject (50%), critical reflection (15%), ability to link general issues to the topics connected with the in-depth studies indicated in the reading list (15%).

There will be a single final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

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.