# Contemporary History (first cycle degree in Political sciences and international relations)

## Prof. Paolo Colombo

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

Students will learn how to analyse the changes that took place in history between the 19th-21th centuries with special reference to links between cultural phenomena, social changes, and political events.

At the end of the course, students will have gained knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the historical development of the contemporary age and to interpret crisis and development factors, correlating them not only to specific events but also to th**e** dynamics of mentality, culture, and social discourse.

This knoweldge should also facilitate students’ access to further history courses in the first cycledegree course and, possibly, to the more specialised ones in the master's degree course.

***COURSE CONTENTS***

Part 1 -  *“In the storms of steel”: STORM OF STEEL conflicts and transformations between two centuries.*

1. 19th century innovations.

2. The advent of mass society and the groundings of democracy.

3 The conditions for the creation of US power.

4. The Italian unification.

5. The cultural and political conditions of the turn of the century.

6. 20th century innovations.

7. Totalitarianism.

8. The Second World War.

Part 2 - *“Lights and shadows of the First Republic”: transformations in the Italian political system*

1. The Atomic Age.

2. The Cold War.

3. From the post-war years to the economic boom: social changes and cultural innovation.

4. The innovations of the 60s

5. Youth protest movements.

6. The age of terrorism.

1. The 80’s and the path towards the European Union.
2. “*Tangentopoli*” and the transition from the “First” to the “Second Republic”.

***READING LIST***

In addition to lecture notes, the syllabus also includes the following:

1. To revise the basics of Contemporary History (the 19th and 20th centuries), the following text is advised:

G. Sabbatucci-V. Vidotto, *Il mondo contemporaneo,* Laterza, Roma-Bari, last edition.

2. To reinforce one’s knowledge of the basic History of Republican Italy, the following text is advised:

G. Vecchio – Paolo Trionfini, *Storia dell’Italia repubblicana (1946-2018),* Monduzzi, Bologna (last edition).

Lesson notes strongly support the readings listed above and also exonerate attending students **from studying one of the four texts below.**

**However, one of the four texts below is compulsory for non attending students.**

J. Smith, *La Guerra Fredda: 1945-1991,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2000.

T. G. Fraser*, Il conflitto arabo-israeliano*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2009.

M. K. Hall, *La guerra del Vietnam,* il Mulino, Bologna, 2011

P. Colombo, *History telling. Esperimenti di storia narrata* Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2020.

P. Colombo-G. Lanotte, *Azzurri. Storie della nazionale e identità italiana*, UTET, Torino, 2021

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will mainly be taught in lectures – with any obstructing conditions –; experts will give talks on special topics. Depending on the number of students attending, there may be individual or group research projects.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students’ learning outcomes are assessed in an oral exam. Questions will be aimed at ascertaining the candidates’ ability to express themselves dialectically, with accuracy and relevance, as well as their ability to demonstrate mastery of the chronological sequence of events. The evaluation – with any obstructing conditions – will take into consideration the pertinence of answers, appropriate use of specific terminology, reasoning and coherent structuring of discourse, as well as students’ ability to identify conceptual links and unresolved issues.

Students will be examined by a Commission of Professors, whose President is the professor chairing the commission. The maximum mark is 30/30. A passing mark is equal to or greater than 18/30. The Commission may decide to award deserving students with a “*cum laude*”.

Only *attending* students may take a written test, which will be made available at the end of the entire cycle of lectures. Said written test is useful to check the level of knowledge acquired throughout the year.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course requires a basic preparation on the essential features of 19th-20th century history (as provided by a course of upper secondary studies) together with students’ ability to chronologically navigate among the main political events.

Students are also expected to demonstrate curiosity and intellectual interest in the most recent historical and political events that are the core of this discipline. Therefore, students should, on one hand, behave proactively (strongly recommended) in order to bridge any past gaps in course attendance or during individual study and, on the other hand, to consolidate their own preparation throughout the academic year.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment 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.