# Contemporary History (undergraduate degreee in Communication and society)

## Prof. Paolo Colombo; Prof. Gioachino Lanotte

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

Part one:(Prof.Paolo Colombo)

The first part of the course is intended to provide tools useful for analysing the changes which took place between the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, focusing specifically on the links between cultural phenomena, social transformations and political events.

## Part two: (Prof. Gioachino Lanotte)

Through the historiographical use of the traditional media (books and newspapers, cinema, television, radio and musical media), the second part of this course aims to provide tools useful for analysing the main historical-social transformations of the second half of the 20th century, focusing particularly on the history of Italy from the post-war period to the present day.

At the end of the course, students will have gained knowledge and skills necessary to orient themselves in the historical development of the contemporary age and to interpret crisis and development factors.

At the end of the course, students will be able to relate crisis and development factors not only to specific events but also to deeper transformation dynamics of mentality, culture and social discourse.

Such acquisitions should also facilitate students’ access to further courses in the historical area present in their three-year degree course and, possibly, to the more specialized ones in the master's degree.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Part one: *“Amid storms of steel”: conflicts and transformations spanning two centuries*

1. New developments in the 19th century.

2. The advent of the mass society and the conditions for democracy.

3. The conditions for the construction of US power.

4. Italian unification.

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

6. New developments in the 20th century.

7. Forms of totalitarianism.

8. The Second World War.

Part two: *History of the Italian Republic through the media*

1. Fascism and war: propaganda.

2. The nation “divided”: radio.

3. The birth of the Republic and Reconstruction: cinema.

4. Italy and the first “Cold War”: the press.

5. The social transformations of the 1950s: pop songs.

6. The Italian “miracle”: television.

7. From the “centre-left” to youth protests: magazines, publishing industry, and class communication.

8. Musical culture between young people’s identity and political communication in the 1970s.

9. The crisis of the “first republic”: fiction.

10. Italy today: the web and the History.

***READING LIST***

In addition to the lecture notes, the exam program comprises:

A test on the knowledge of the fundamental events of Contemprary History (19th and 20th centuries): it is recommended that students study the textbook indicated below:

G. Sabbatucci-V. Vidotto, *Il mondo contemporaneo,* Laterza, Roma-Bari, 2019

– It is advised the use of the following text:

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

Lesson notes strongly support the readings listed above and also relieve students from studying a text among the following four.

A text to be chosen from the list below is compulsory for non attending students.

G. Lanotte, *Mussolini e la sua “Orchestra”. Radio e musica nell'Italia fascista*, Prospettiva Editrice, Civitavecchia, 2016.

I. Piazzoni, *Storia delle televisioni in Italia. Dagli esordi alle web tv,* Carocci, Roma, 2014.

P. Colombo-G. Lanotte, *La corsa del secolo. Cent’anni di storia italiana attraverso il Giro*, Mondadori, Milano, 2017.

G. Lanotte, *Il “quarto fronte”. Musica e propaganda radiofonica nell’Italia liberata (1943-1945)*, Morlacchi, Perugia, 2012.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be taught mainly through lectures – with any obstructing conditions; for certain topics, there will be expert guest speakers and cycles of practical work; depending on the number of students attending lectures, individual or group research projects may be assigned. In the second part of the course, the main instrument of study will be audiovisual sources. There may also be expert speakers from the world of culture and the media.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The student’s learning outcomes are assessed by means of an oral exam. Questions will specifically aim to ascertain the candidate’s capacity to express themselves dialectically, with accuracy and appropriateness, as well as their capacity to show their mastery of chronological successions.

The evaluation will take into consideration relevance of answers, appropriate use of specific terminology, argumentative and coherent structuring of discourse, students’ ability to identify conceptual links and unsolved issues.

Students – with any obstructing conditions - will be examined by a Commission of Professors, whose President is the Professor holding the chair. The final mark is out of thirty: the exam is successful is students receive a mark equal or superior to 18/30. The maximum grade is 30/30; the Commission may decide to award deserving students with a “*cum laude*”. Only and exclusively students *attending* the above described course may take a written test, which will be made available at the end of the whole cycle of lectures. Such a written test is useful to check the level ok knowledge acquired throughout the year.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course requires a basic preparation on essential features of nineteenth and twentieth century history (as provided by a course of upper secondary studies) together with students’ ability to chronologically orientate themselves among the main political events.

University students are also expected to demonstrate an attitude of curiosity and intellectual interest in the most recent historical and political events that are core of this discipline: therefore students should have a proactive behaviour (strongly recommended) on the one hand aimed at bridging any past gaps during the course attendance or during the individual study and, on the other hand, to consolidate students’ own preparation during the whole 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.