# Modern and Contemporary History

## Prof. Emanuele Pagano; Prof. Alessandro Angelo Persico

Modern History module: *Prof. Emanuele Pagano*

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

The course aims to furnish students with general understanding of the major themes of the modern age, with a particular focus on the West. A series of lectures will be devoted to the structure and dynamics of economies, societies and states, as well as great cultural transitions and the development of policies pertaining to historical assets of both a cultural and artistic nature.

At the end of the course, students will:

1. have acquired critical knowledge of the historic themes covered, by applying the most cutting-edge historiographic methods and concepts;

2. be able to present historical issues in a well-structured way, using appropriate language, applying the knowledge acquired by reading the texts on the course reading list;

3. be able to independently apply the techniques learned in lectures to understanding other historical topics, using appropriate concepts and tools for the study of history: periodisation, conceptualisation, the collection and interpretation of statistical data, the recognition and analysis of primary and secondary sources and critical essays;

4. be able to make independent judgements on historical topics of an institutional, social, religious and ethical nature, thereby deepening their understanding of current affairs;

5. be able to communicate historical ideas and problems, explaining them clearly and accurately to specialist and non-specialist audiences alike.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Through a select number of themes, the course will cover the period from the end of the 15th century to 1815. It will refer specifically to the geographic discoveries and the early “globalisation” of the economy; the development of the European states on an institutional, financial and military level; the break in the unity of the Church; contact and conflict between the Christian and Islamic-Ottoman worlds; the “Age of Revolution” and the great institutional, political and cultural changes that followed.

1. Demography: factors and dynamics. Epidemics
2. European States between hegemonies and geopolitical balance (1454-1648)
3. The great geographical discoveries and the worldwide expansion of economics (15th-18th century)
4. The Military Revolution: wars and armies
5. Protestants and Catholics
6. Euro-Mediterranean conflicts and trade: Christians, Muslims, Jews
7. European Powers and colonial empires. Geopolitical perpectives (1650-1795)
8. Political fights in England and the birth of the U.S.A. (17th-18th century)
9. The French Revolution and the Napoleonic age: politics and institutions
10. At the origins of the ‘cultural heritage’. The French revolutionary nationalism and the cultural-artistic heritage.
11. The Congress of Vienna: a renewed Europe.

***READING LIST***

1. Lecture notes and further teaching material made available by the lecturer (also on *Blackboard*).

2. V. Criscuolo, *Storia moderna*, Milan-Turin, Pearson, 2019 (the abridged edition by E. Pagano, Pearson 2020, only the chapters indicated by the lecturer).

3. A reading of their choice, to be selected from the following list (the chapters for the exam will be indicated by the lecturer in class): I) S.A. Conca Messina, *Profitti del potere. Stato ed economia nell’Europa moderna*, Rome-Bari, Laterza, 2016; II) G. Brunelli, *La guerra in età moderna*, Rome-Bari, Laterza, 2021; III) E. Sala, *Elisabetta “la sanguinaria”*, Milano, Ares, 2010; IV) D. Losurdo, *Controstoria del liberalismo*, Rome-Bari, Laterza, 2005; V) J. Dumont, *I falsi miti della Rivoluzione francese*, Proceno (VT), Effedieffe, 2013 e *Ideologie e patrimonio storico-culturale nell'età rivoluzionaria e napoleonica. A proposito del trattato di Tolentino,* Roma, Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali, Ufficio centrale per i beni e le attività culturali, Ufficio centrale per i beni archivistici, 2000; VI) V. Criscuolo, *Il Congresso di Vienna*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2015.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures or video lessons and any discussions in the Forum (Blackboard).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exams. The first question will assess students on their knowledge of modern history, as covered or mentioned in lectures, in terms of institutional geopolitics, socio-economics, religion and culture. There will be a second question on the content covered by the student's chosen text. Students will be marked out of thirty (pass mark 18/30; maximum mark 30/30). The mark will be awarded by the board once students have answered the lecturer’s questions on contemporary history. Students will be marked out of 30 (pass mark 18/30, maximum mark 30/30). Students who provide comprehensive and well justified answers using appropriate language will be awarded distinction (*lode*). Those who cannot attend (for good reason), must agree on suitable extra reading with the lecturer.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

To make the most out of the course and achieve the intended learning outcomes mentioned above, foreign students must be proficient in Italian (spoken and written), and require basic school-level knowledge of European history.

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.

Contemporary History module: *Prof. Alessandro Angelo Persico*

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

The aim of the course is to provide students with the historical concepts they need for a deeper, more complex understanding of the contemporary age, with a particular focus on globalisation, its historical dynamics and repercussions in the contemporary world. To this end, the course will outline the historical processes that contributed to the current political, social, cultural and religious landscape between the 19th and 21st centuries.

By the end of the course, students will:

1. have basic and critical knowledge of the historical themes covered;

2. be able to use specific, complex terminology to address the themes covered in lectures, through reading and analysing the texts on the reading list;

3. be able to approach their studies methodically so that they can understand historical issues independently: research and analysis of primary and secondary sources, analysis of critical essays, periodization, collection and interpretation of data from other fields (sociology, anthropology, geography, medicine and psychology);

4. be able to apply independent judgement to historical themes of an institutional, social, religious and ethical nature, related to current affairs;

5. be able to present information, ideas, issues and historical and cultural processes to specialist and non-specialist audiences in a clear, well-structured way.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will cover the period between the Vienna Congress and the first decades of the 21st century, focusing on the transformations that took place within societies, induced by the expansion of geopolitical horizons and transnational and transcontinental connections. Lectures will examine the developments of European and non-European societies; the dissolution of the Empires, the formation and consolidation of the nation-states; the affirmation of ideologies; the development of the Christian and non-Christian world, and evolution of interreligious relations; the major “global” crises, both military and economic, and the great institutional, political and cultural changes. Within this framework, there will be a section dedicated to contemporary Italy from the post-WW2 era to today.

1. Definition, periodization, sources of contemporary history.

2. State, nation and ethnicity.

3. Nationalisms, European colonial expansion and missions.

4. Industrial Revolution, Mass Ideologies and the Russian Revolution.

5. World wars, financial crises, totalitarianisms.

6. Italian Republic and the construction of a democratic Europe.

7. Cold War, bipolar world, decolonization.

8. Movements and political parties.

9. End of the Cold War and global disorder.

***READING LIST***

Required reading:

Lecture, notes and any other material provided during the course.

One of the following books:

R.F. Betts, *La decolonizzazione*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2004 (or a later edition).

P. Borruso, *Debre Libanos. Il più grave crimine di guerra dell’Italia*, Laterza, Roma-Bari, 2020.

A. Giovagnoli, *La Repubblica degli italiani. 1946-2016*, Laterza, Roma-Bari, 2016 (pages V-XXV and 1-147 or pages V-XXV and 148-302).

G. Carbone, *L’Africa. Gli Stati,* *la politica, i conflitti*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2005 (or a later edition).

G. Amato-A. Graziosi, *Grandi illusioni. Ragionando sull’Italia*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2013.

T.G. Fraser, *Il conflitto arabo-israeliano*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2015.

C. Jordis, *Gandhi*, Feltrinelli, 2008.

A. Fiori, *L’Asia orientale. Dal 1945 ai giorni nostri*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2011.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed through an oral exam, as follows: a) one/two questions on the general section (lecture notes), requiring students to contextualise and describe the main events of contemporary history; b) a question on the second part of the course (text of students’ choice), the response to which must also demonstrate their knowledge of the topics covered in lectures.

The final mark will be out of 30 (pass mark 18/30; maximum mark 30/30) and will be based on students’ expository skills (specific language) and the quality of their answers (70%) and their ability to justify statements, analyses and judgements during the exam (30%). Students who answer all questions comprehensively and completely, and conduct the exam in a wholly appropriate manner will be awarded full marks with distinction (*lode*).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Given the complexity of the topics covered, students are advised to attend lectures regularly. Foreign students must be proficient in Italian (spoken and written), and familiar with the main events of European history.

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.