History of Contemporary China

Prof. Paolo De Giovanni

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

The course aims to provide students with a general knowledge of the history of contemporary China and China in global history.

The course starts with an exploration of the radical changes that took place in China following the Opium Wars in the mid-19th century. It will then retrace the main historical developments and profound transformations that characterize China’s history throughout the entire 20th century. The course will focus in particular on the history of the People’s Republic of China from 1949 to today, examining key periods such as the Great Leap Forward (1958), the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), and the 1989 Tian’anmen crisis.

The course will also place China in the context of its international relations throughout the 20th century and up to the present day, introducing students to the country’s transition to the new millennium.

By the end of the course, students will be able to navigate China’s contemporary history, contextualize the events studied, and make logical links between them. Students will also develop critical skills and communication capabilities through discussions and/or presentations in class.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Introduction to the history of modern and contemporary China.

– Mao’s China in the 1950s.

– The Cultural Revolution.

– Deng Xiaoping and the “Reform and Opening-Up”.

– 1989: Tian’anmen.

– The 1990s.

– The 2000s.

– China and the world: transformations and strategies in the 21st century.

***READING LIST***

**6 Ects credits programme**

In addition to mastering the topics studied in class, attending students are also required to study the following textbooks:

G. Samarani, *La Cina contemporanea*, Einaudi, Torino, 2017. Second and third parts.

B. Gallelli, *La Cina di oggi in otto parole*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2021

Further readings to prepare for the exam may be indicated in due course.

Non-attending students will also study:

G. Samarani, L. De Giorgi, *Lontane vicine. Le relazioni fra Cina e Italia nel Novecento,* Carocci, Roma, 2011.

**4 Ects credits programme**

In addition to mastering the topics studied in class, attending students are also required to study the following textbooks:

G. Samarani, *La Cina contemporanea*, Einaudi, Torino, 2017. Second and third parts.

B. Gallelli, *La Cina di oggi in otto parole*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2021.

Further readings to prepare for the exam may be indicated in due course.

Non-attending students will also study:

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***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, including discussions on assigned readings and “open lessons” with talks by experts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam takes place in oral form. The test aims to ascertain knowledge of the topics covered in the texts that make up the exam bibliography and, in the case of attending students, also of the topics covered during the course. The critical skills of the student, as well as his expressive abilities, are also assessed.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

The teacher’s office hours will be communicated at the beginning of the course.