# Modern History

## Gr. A-K: Prof. Angelo Bianchi

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

The course aims to inspire interest in the study of history and furnish students with a general understanding of the main developments in modern history, from the Renaissance until the start of the process of Italian national unification. It also aims to introduce students to the techniques for learning and understanding course content, including through the extended, in-depth study of certain aspects, based on direct examination of the sources.

The first semester of the course (module 1) will involve lectures to present the most important political, social, economic and cultural topics in modern history and a number of seminars for studying key topics in world history in greater depth.

During semester 2 (module 2), some aspects of European history will be presented, from the Renaissance to the National Risorgimento era, with particular reference to the theme of war and peace, addressed at various times and from various perspectives (theoretical treatises, events, political-diplomatic activities, etc.).

*Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to: 1. identify the phases of modern history, with a particular focus on chronological stages; 2. find their bearings in terms of the historic geography of Ancien Régime European states.

*Applying knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will have gradually become accustomed to using their knowledge of history to view the present through the lens of the past. They will also be able to read and understand simple historic documents, including those of a non-literary nature.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1 (1st semester) (general section – 6 credits – cannot be retaken)

– General section and introduction to the study of modern history (15th-19th centuries).

Module 2 (2nd semester) (advanced course – 6 credits – may be retaken)

– From the "just war" to "perpetual peace": events, theories, texts, stories in modern times. The debate on war begins with the writings of Machiavelli and Erasmus of Rotterdam.

***READING LIST***

For module 1

1. Lecture notes.
2. A reliable history manual used in high schools and a historical atlas (during the lectures, a few useful manuals will be presented in this regard).
3. The following texts:

* P. Prodi, *Introduzione allo studio della storia moderna*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1999.
* F. Braudel, *Storia misura del mondo*, Il Mulino, Bologna 2002.

For module 2:

1. Lecture notes.
2. *Libro dell’arte della guerra di Niccolò Machiavelli cittadino et secretario fiorentino […]*, various online editions, including: [Venice] Eredi di Aldo Manuzio, 1540. (<https://teca.bncf.firenze.sbn.it/ImageViewer/servlet/ImageViewer?idr=BNCF00004035913>).
3. Erasmo da Rotterdam, *Adagi*, testo latino a fronte, a c. di E. Lelli, Bompiani, Milano 2013. (other editions, including digital, are fine as long as they are unabridged).

One volume chosen from the following:

1. G. Parker, *La rivoluzione militare: le innovazioni militari e il sorgere dell'Occidente*, Il mulino, Bologna 2005.
2. *Guerre ed eserciti nell'età moderna*, a c. di P. Bianchi – P. Del Negro, Il Mulino, Bologna 2018;
3. Piero Del Negro, Guerre ed eserciti nell'età moderna da Machiavelli a Napoleone, Laterza, Bari 2001.

The specialist reading list will also include a selection of texts that will be presented and commented on in class during the lectures.

N.B.: Information on the texts and *Letters* to prepare for point n. 3, on an additional specific reading list and documentary and iconographic material will be provided by the lecturer during lectures and posted on the lecturer’s personal webpage: (Docenti Università Cattolica).

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be taught in lectures and further study seminars.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be oral examinations at the end of the course.

To pass the examination, students must show they have a good, in-depth understanding of modern history from the age of the Renaissance to 1815.

Students will take an initial oral test based on the general lines of modern history, in the geopolitical-institutional, socio-economic and religious-cultural realms studied in Module 1. Upon passing the oral exam, students shall then complete the exam requirements with a discussion of the topics presented during the single-subject course (module 2).

Students will be marked out of thirty (18/30 is the lowest mark for a pass; the top mark is 30/30). Students will be awarded a distinction if they complete the test with answers of the very highest standard.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students whose study plans already include the History of Modern Historiography are not required to present the text under point 3 of Module 1.

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.