# History and Communication in the Present Time

## Prof. Alessandro Persico

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to provide students with a basic knowledge of contemporary history and general understanding of the role played by different forms of communication in historical processes, with particular reference to mass culture and the information society. At the end of the course, students will possess an adequate historical instrumentation to understand the processes of globalisation and their impact in modern and contemporary times; the formation of the mass society between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as its maturation as an information society; the impact of the two world wars; genocidal processes, framing them in the history of the twentieth century; decolonisation and economic-social transformations that occurred during the Cold War; the phenomena of propaganda and consensus in modern societies; the relationships between information and politics in Western democracies; the birth and development of the internet and social media from a historical perspective.

COURSE CONTENT

The course will cover the following topics: history, historiographies and the work of historians; globalisation and its impact on events in the modern and contemporary ages; people, state, nation and mass society between the 19th and 20th centuries, with particular attention to the Italian Risorgimento; the First World War, totalitarianism, the Second World War; information, propaganda and consensus in authoritarian and democratic societies; genocides and the Holocaust as paradigmatic events of the 20th century; decolonisation processes, the bipolar world and the economic and social transformations of the Cold War; genesis and affirmation of the information society between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

READING LIST

1. Lecture notes.

2. L. Caracciolo - A. Roccucci, *Storia contemporanea. Dal mondo europeo al mondo senza centro*, Le Monnier, Milan, 2017 (chapters 1-24).

3. A. Giovagnoli, *Storia e globalizzazione*, Laterza, Rome, 2003 (or later editions).

4. A. Mattelart, *Storia della società dell’informazione*, Einaudi, Torino, 2002 (or later editions).

TEACHING METHOD

The course will involve frontal lectures in the classroom, except for anti-Covid provisions for alternative learning distance.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The exam will take place orally as follows: a) one or two questions on the general part (lectures and manual, points 1 and 2 of the programme), in which students must know how to contextualise and describe the main events of contemporary history; b) one or two questions on the lecture contents (point 1 of the programme) and the single subject volumes (points 3 and 4 of the programme). A successful assessment on the general part (lectures and manual) is an essential prerequisite for promotion.

The exam will be marked out of thirty (from a minimum of 18/30 to a maximum of 30/30). The final mark will take into account the student's presentation skill (specific language) and quality of answers, as well as the ability to adequately motivate statements, analyses and judgments. In the case of a comprehensively complete assessment, conducted using appropriate language and with personal in-depth ability, honours will be granted.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Communications and notices regarding the course, reading list and exams will be included in the virtual classroom or in the lecturer personal page. Requests will not be answered by e-mail regarding what is already contained in these sites.

Students must possess a good knowledge of the Italian language and the ability to use appropriate vocabulary.

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.