Contemporary History

Prof. Giorgio Del Zanna

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

The aim of the course is to provide students with basic knowledge of the main historical dynamics that have shaped the world over the last two centuries. At the end of the course, students will be able to understand and explain the main historical dynamics of the contemporary era, identifying the most important political, social, and cultural aspects that characterise them. In addition, students will be able to carry out a critical analysis of historical events, identify the elements of continuity and discontinuity and the main historiographic issues, and get a better understanding of the main historiographic categories of the contemporary world.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course aims to cover the history of globalisation from the late 18th century to the 1990s, highlighting above all some important cultural dynamics that have shaped the contemporary world, with a particular focus on language issues.

Globalisation from a historical perspective.

From universal history to “world history”.

Plurilingualism and national languages in Europe and the Mediterranean.

Languages in the colonial and post-colonial world.

Linguistic conflicts and dynamics in post-communist Eastern Europe.

Geopolitics of languages in the contemporary world.

***READING LIST***

The exam syllabus for the Contemporary History course is based on the following:

1) Course notes.

2) Contemporary history textbook: Caracciolo-Roccucci, *Storia contemporanea,* Le Monnier, Milan, 2017, from chapter II.

3) G. Del Zanna (edited by), *Geopolitica delle lingue*, Maggioli, 2018.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures. The course also includes seminars for detailed study of certain topics connected to issues discussed during lectures as well as group work.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by oral exam as follows:

Two questions relating to the first general section, for which students will need to be able to contextualise and describe the main events of contemporary history. Two questions on the second part of the course which will examine knowledge of the lecture content.

The exam will be marked out of 30, and will take account of the accuracy and quality of answers (70%), as well as the ability to adequately justify statements, analysis and judgements expressed during the exam (30%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are advised to use an historical atlas in preparation for the examination. All information regarding the course, the reading list and the examinations will be available on the tutor’s webpage. Students are invited to consult the page regularly. Furthermore, students should note that any emails they send containing enquiries regarding information already available on the University website will not be answered.

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.