# History of Military Institutions and Security Systems (including a Workshop on the Typology of Contemporary Conflicts)

## Prof. Valentina VIlla; Prof. Mario Scazzoso

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

The course aims to provide students with the basic knowledge related to the history of military institutions and security systems, ranging in a broad and thematic way from the Middle Ages to the contemporary age.

The course is divided into three parts. The first part aims to define what war is and the historical description of the main organisational models of military structures, and more in general of defense strategies. The second part explores the institutional evolution of military institutions in connection with the consequences of technological revolution and mass armies. Lastly, in the third part, a workshop on present conflicts aims to analyse the new typological forms of asymmetric conflict.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to correctly identify and describe the turning points in the history of military institutions and security systems.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to appreciate the relevance of the war phenomenon and understand the attempts of its institutional framework over the centuries.

*Judgement autonomy; communication skills and learning skills*

At the end of the course, the student will be able to personally assess the characteristics of the current war phenomena, talk about them and discuss them with different interlocutors and can further deepen the topics dealt with with a high degree of autonomy.

***COURSE CONTENT***

*Methodological and historical-institutional premises*

1. Methodological and definition aspects.

2. The origins of the modern military: from ‘feudal professionalism’ to the armies of the *Ancien régime.*

3. Citizens ‘in arms’ in the age of Revolutions: France and the United States.

*Contemporary Age*

1. From the American Civil War to the World Wars: technological revolution and mass armies.

2. Italian Armed Forces from the liberal age to the abolition of compulsory military service.

3. The reforms of the Italian military administration: from the Constitution to the end of compulsory military service.

7. The trans-national dimension of war in the 20th century: origins and evolution of the European common defense.

*Workshop on contemporary conflicts (Prof. Mario Scazzoso)*

1. Types of contemporary conflicts: from asymmetric war to the IT war.

2. EU common safety and the role of NATO.

3. The cost of war: *Smart Defence/Pooling & Sharing*.

***READING LIST***

Students who will have the opportunity to regularly attend the course will study the lecture notes and the indicated chapters in the following textbooks:

R. Smith, *L’arte della guerra nel mondo contemporaneo,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2009 (Part I: chapters I, II, III; Part III: chapters VII, VIII, IX).

Additional study material for attending students will be assigned during lectures and published on the Blackboard page.

Students who will not be able to regularly attend the course will prepare for the exam according to the following programme:

R. Smith, *L’arte della guerra nel mondo contemporaneo,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2009.

A textbook of students’ choice:

A. A. Settia, *Rapine, assedi, battaglie. La guerra nel medioevo*, Roma-Bari, Laterza.

M. Mondini, *La politica delle armi. Il ruolo dell'esercito nell'avvento del fascismo*, Roma-Bari, Laterza.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be mainly taught through frontal lectures and possible guest speakers on specific topics and external guests.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed through an oral exam. The questions are aimed at verifying student's ability to orient themselves among the fundamental points of the discipline. Questions aim also to assess students’ ability to express themselves correctly, mastery of specific vocabulary of the discipline and chronological sequences. The exam takes place with the lecturer. Marks are out of 30. A pass mark is 18/30 and above; the top mark is 30/30, to which a ‘*cum* *laude’* can be added for excellent answers.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Attending the course effectively requires a knowledge of the fundamentals of Contemporary History, of the history of political institutions and the history of international relations and institutions. Knowledge of the main concepts of international relations is also required.

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.