# History of Political Relations between North America and Europe

## Prof. Gianluca Pastori

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

The course aims to give a historical overview of the “American peculiarity” and the political, economic, and military relations between North America and Europe during the 20th century; in particular, it will focus on the concept of security, from the origins of the Atlantic Alliance to the end of the Cold War.

At the end of the course, students will be able to understand the peculiarities of the transatlantic relationship and the different ways in which they are expressed over time. In addition, they will be able to use their newly-acquired knowledge to interpret the current reality of the relations between North America and Europe and their different transformations.

In particular:

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Acquire an in-depth knowledge of the historical evolution of the political relations between North America and Europe, as well as the key tools to understand them;
2. Consider the phenomena under analysis as part of a ‘long-term’ perspective, and identify the connections existing between them, including their causes and consequences;

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, the students will be able to:

1. Interpret the relationship between North America and Europe in the current scenario, and analyse its transformations from a broader perspective, taking into account their historical evolution and the economic, social, and cultural trends.

2. Interpret – from a personal point of view – the topics explained during the course, using and appropriate terminology (including the concepts, relations, and periodisation used in the field of history).

3. Combine the different course content and identify in a coherent way the connections with the other elements of their learning path through the multidisciplinary approach of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences.

*Autonomy of judgement, communication skills and learning ability*

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Autonomously develop judgements and evaluations regarding the framework of the North America-Europe relations and their place within the international scene.
2. Present their judgments and evaluations in a coherent and structured way and support their position through adequate linguistic, historical, theoretical and interpretative tools.
3. Independently expand their knowledge by selecting sources and materials in a conscious and methodologically sound way, also from a multidisciplinary perspective.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. From the Thirteen colonies to the Spanish-American war: origins and development of a world power.

2. The United States and the European crisis: Wilson’s “mission” and Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “realism”.

3. From the Truman Doctrine to the Atlantic Alliance: the United States and Europe at the beginning of the Cold War.

4. Competitive allies? The transatlantic relationship, from “the first *détente*” to the end of the 1980s.

5. The 1990s: the challenges in the post-bipolar world and the search for a new security architecture.

6. The European doubts and the weakness of the leading nation: from September 9/11 to the years of “withdrawal”.

***READING LIST***

The reading list includes lecture notes by the lecturer, supplemented by the following text: T.A. Slaye, *Enduring Alliance. A History of NATO and the Postwar Global Order*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca - London, 2019. The paper book is available at the University Library. The paper book is available at UCSC libraries.

Students who, for various reasons, cannot attend lectures, can replace lecture notes with the following text: M. Nolan, *The Transatlantic Century. Europe and America, 1890-2010*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge *et al.*, 2012 The book is available in the University Library in e-book format. Non-attending students must study the text *Enduring Alliance*.

Furthermore, students will be asked to write an assignment on one of the topics presented by the lecturer in class. The list of topics, together with a selection of essays for analysis, will be made available on Blackboard after the beginning of the course. The aim is to test students’ knowledge of the subject, and ability to combine a specific topic with the ones analysed during the course.

Further information on the reading list will be made available on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures that might be supported by practical classes, conferences, and lectures held by experts on specific topics. For the final exam, students will be asked to write an assignment based on one of the topics proposed by the lecturer, as explained above.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral assessment, based on questions aimed to test students’ ability to express themselves dialectically, use proper terminology, and orient themselves among the different chronological phases of the subject and the dynamics underlying the events. In addition, the mark obtained in the oral exam will be integrated with the one received in the written assignment (as already mentioned above). The oral exam will take place with the lecturer or one of his collaborators. The final mark is expressed in thirtieths; in order to pass the exam, students will have to get at least 18 points out of 30. The maximum is 30/30 with honours.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In order to get the most out of this course, students should have a good knowledge of the key concepts of international relations, and the history of international institutions, especially in the period after World War II.

Further information on the course and the teaching material (e.g. cancelled or rescheduled lectures, consulting hours, changes to the reading list, news about meetings, conferences and practical classes) will be made available on Blackboard. Therefore, students are invited to enrol on the platform, regardless of class attendance (including supplementary year students).

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.