# Contemporary History: Geographies and Society

## Prof. Valentina Villa

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

The course aims to provide the essential tools to study the interactions between history and geography. It will also present the basic methodologies to analyse spatial and territorial phenomena and their relationship with historical transformations, in particular the phenomena of colonialism and migrations.

The first part of the course will explore the theoretical foundations of human geography: the history of the discipline, geographical determinism and possibilism, cartography, the formation and transformation of territorial states and the organization of political power within them.

The second part of the course will examine the constituent elements of the Western colonial expansion (with particular reference to the American continent) and the history of international, intra-European and internal migrations within the Italian State.

*Intended Learning outcomes*

**Knowledge and understanding**: At the end of the course, students will have acquired the basic knowledge of the social and political phenomena linked to colonialism and migration in a historical perspective. Students will also able to identify the main geographical and environmental elements which – based on the theories developed by human and historical geography– influence or are influenced by human action in different geo-historical contexts.

**Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:** At the end of the course, students will be able to connect the main phenomena relating to human geography – in particular, those linked to movement – with a given territory and to observe the spatial dimension of the historical processes with greater awareness.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Geography and history: an interdisciplinary perspective

2. Cartography

3. The political organization of space

4. Urban systems

5. Models of development

6. Colonialism

7. Migration

8. Workshop: places of history and places of memory. Milan and World War II.

***READING LIST***

Students who will have the opportunity to regularly attend can prepare the exam on the lecture notes and on the reading indicated by the Blackboard page.

Students who will have the opportunity to regularly attend must contact the lecturer.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will be taught through lectures; specific topics will be presented by external speakers and experts. In particular, a there will be a meeting with a researcher from the Ferruccio Parri National Institute. Students may be given the opportunity to work in group depending on the number of students and their level participation in class.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The students’ learning outcomes are assessed through an oral exam. The questions will aim to evaluate students’ ability to navigate through the fundamentals of the discipline. Questions will also assess the students’ ability to express themselves with accuracy and appropriateness, mastering the specific terminology of the course as well as their knowledge of exact chronological order. The exam takes place before a Commission chaired by the lecturer. The mark is expressed in thirtieths: the pass mark is 18/30. The maximum mark is 30/30: in addition to this mark the Examining Commission may decide to award *cum laude* when deserved.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course requires a basic knowledge of the fundamentals of contemporary history and geography.

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.