# International history

## Prof. Gianluca Pastori

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

The aim of the course – which is taught in English – is to provide a framework to understand the global dynamics of the XIX and XX century and how they impacted the contemporary international system. Emphasis is on the interplay of the different elements rather than on their individual nature. The focus is on the long term trends, their evolution and resurfacing in the present-day political, economic, and international environment.

As far as learning outcomes are concerned, the course aims at:

1. Providing students with notions on the historical evolution of the main international dynamics and with tools needed to understand them;

2. Providing students with skills to frame international events in a long-term perspective and to understand their links, antecedents, and consequences.

In terms of the ability to apply their knowledge and understanding, at the end of the course, the students will be able to:

1. Understand the current international scene and its development from a broader perspective, unfolding over time and related to other regional economic, social, and cultural dynamics.

2. Present the course content in a clear and precise form, and express their knowledge by correctly using proper terms, concepts, relationships, and periodizations of the historical disciplines.

3. Integrate the different contents of the course, and identify the relationships existing, at different levels, with other segments of their educational path, emphasizing the multidisciplinary approach that characterizes the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences.

In terms of the autonomy of judgement, communication and learning skills, at the end of the course, the students will be able to:

1. Elaborate personal interpretations on the issues the course deals with, their possible implications, and their role in the broader framework of the historical process.
2. Expose their positions in an organic and structured form, defending them by properly referring to adequate theoretical, analytical, interpretative, and linguistic tools.
3. Autonomously expand their knowledge in the field by choosing sources and materials in a proper and methodologically sound way, also from a multidisciplinary perspective.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Interdependence and the evolution of the international system: international history as an interconnected history.

2. Moving beyond stereotypes: the “West” and the “Rest” between dialogue, competition and mutual influence.

3. The “long XIX century”: the “golden age” of Europe and the shaping of the “European” international order.

4. The “short XX century”: the United States, the Soviet Union, and the decline of the European order.

5. The beginning of the XXI century: old and new fault lines in an increasingly interconnected world.

6. The need for a different paradigm: governing today’s challenges in the “global” international system.

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

The reading list will be provided after the beginning of the course and published on the Blackboard online learning platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, possibly supported by conferences, seminars, and guest speakers on specific topics. To pass their exam, students shall submit a written paper on a topic chosen from a list posted on the Blackboard online learning platform after the beginning of the course. The paper aims to assess students’ preparation and ability in integrating the different contents of the course.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Final oral exam on different topics of the course. Students will be assessed on their ability to express themselves correctly, use the specific vocabulary, concepts, and chronological sequences of the discipline. The exam will be complemented by the assessment of students’ written papers as explained in the section above. The exam takes place with the lecturer and/or one of his assistants. Marks are out of 30. The pass mark is 18/30 and above; the top mark is 30/30, to which a ‘*cum* *laude’* can be added for excellent answers. A partial exam is scheduled at the end of the first term, contributing to the student’s final grade.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITE***

To fruitfully attend the course, a good knowledge of the fundamentals of international relations as well as of the fundamentals of the history of international relations and institutions (with a specific reference to the period following World War II) is warmly suggested.

Course materials and communications will be published only on the Blackboard online learning platform. Among them (but not only), information regarding suspensions and/or relocations of lessons; suspensions and/or changes in office hours; recoup lessons; integrations and/or amendments in the reading list; conferences, seminars, guest speakers, etc.

For this reason, all students (attending or not, enrolled in the course in the present academic year or previous ones) are strongly invited to enrol in the Blackboard online learning platform too.

*Office hours*

If no different indications are provided, office hours will be in the lecturer’s office, in Largo Gemelli, 1, Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche (“Gregorianum” building, 2nd floor), Room 242. Exact hours will be indicated on the Blackboard online learning platform at the beginning of the academic year. When lectures are suspended, office hours could change; changes will be posted on the Blackboard online learning platform. Students are kindly invited to regularly check on Blackboard for possible changes.

1. I testi indicati nella bibliografia sono acquistabili presso le librerie di Ateneo; è possibile acquistarli anche presso altri rivenditori. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)