**Contemporary History**

Prof. Paolo Valvo

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

The course aims at deepening the main issues related to the institutional, social and cultural development of international society from the post-World War II period to the 2000s, focusing in particular on the dynamics of the international system from the Cold War to today’s multipolarism and on the evolution of collective mentality and behaviour. At the end of the course, students will be able to use the tools of knowledge and historical analysis to critically investigate some of the political, socio-economic and cultural trends that characterise the global world today, with significant repercussions on the approach to sustainability issues by individuals, civil society movements and governments. Awareness of the historical roots of contemporary phenomena will help students - in their future professional capacity - to develop an overall vision of economic processes, attentive to the cultural, social and environmental dimensions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

- The construction of a new international order after 1945 and the start of the “Golden Age of Western Capitalism”

- The process of European integration from its origins to the present day: historical achievements and unresolved issues

- Cold War, decolonisation, development: the case of ENI in the Italy of the “economic miracle”

- The global protest of the late 1960s and its outcomes: sexual revolution, political violence and the “ebb in the private sphere”, identity politics, environmentalism, digital revolution

- Economy and society from the “end of development” to the current globalisation

- Towards a multipolar order? The West, China and Russia from the fall of the Berlin Wall to today's challenges

***READING LIST***

The examination programme includes a test of knowledge of the essentials of the historical development of the contemporary world since the Second World War. The following textbook is recommended for this purpose:

*Introduzione alla storia contemporanea,* edited by S. Cavazza-P. Pombeni,il Mulino, Bologna 2020, pp. 17-231 (chapters I-XI) e pp. 331-452 (chapters XXIII-XXXVII). [*Buy from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/autori-vari/introduzione-alla-storia-contemporanea-9788815284877-682323.html)

In addition to the textbook, the study of one volume of your choice from the following is required:

G. Balbi-P.Magaudda, *Storia dei media digitali. Rivoluzioni e continuità,* Laterza, Roma-Bari, 2014

D.A. Bell, *Il modello Cina. Meritocrazia politica e limiti della democrazia*, Luiss University Press, Roma, 2019

M. Bocci (a cura di), *Cultura in azione. L’ENI e l’Università Cattolica per lo sviluppo dei popoli*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2017

M. Dian, *La Cina, gli Stati Uniti e il futuro dell’ordine internazionale*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2021

M. Ferraresi, *Il secolo greve. Alle origini del nuovo disordine mondiale*, Marsilio, Venezia, 2017

F. Fukuyama, *Identità. La ricerca della dignità e i nuovi populismi*, Utet, Torino, 2017

L. Gudkov-V. Zaslavsky, *La Russia da Gorbaciov a Putin*, il Mulino, Bologna, 2010

G.J. Ikenberry, *Un mondo sicuro per la democrazia. Internazionalismo liberale e crisi dell’ordine globale*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2021

S. Lucarelli, *Cala il sipario sull’ordine liberale? Crisi di un sistema che ha cambiato il mondo*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2020

J. Mearsheimer, *La grande illusione. Perché la democrazia liberale non può cambiare il mondo*, Luiss University Press, Roma, 2019

F. Paolini, *Breve storia dell’ambiente nel Novecento*, Carocci, Roma, 2009

L. Scaraffia, *Storia della liberazione sessuale: Il corpo delle donne tra eros e pudore,* Marsilio, Venezia, 2019

Some indications to facilitate the choice between the volumes will be provided by the lecturer in class. Students who wish to do so may present one of the essays of their choice in the classroom at the end of the course, thus anticipating part of the examination; for obvious teaching reasons, it will not be possible to organise more than one presentation for each volume.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures. Classroom teaching will encourage the active participation of students - who will be encouraged to critically read current events in the light of the content learned during the course - and will be supplemented with the support of audiovisual, iconographic and textual documentation.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The examination is oral and will consist of an appropriate number of questions (at least three) on the topics of the course. The assessment - expressed in thirtieths - will take into account the mastery and critical reworking of the content learnt during the course, as well as clarity of presentation and the ability to adequately justify the statements and analyses developed during the examination.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Teaching does not require any prerequisites in terms of content. In any case, an attitude of intellectual curiosity towards the main political and social issues of the contemporary world is desirable.

***TIME AND PLACE OF RECEPTION FOR STUDENTS***

During the lecture period, Prof. Valvo receives students before and after lectures. He is always available by appointment (in person or on the Teams platform), to be arranged by e-mail ([paoloantonio.valvo@unicatt.it](mailto:paoloantonio.valvo@unicatt.it)).

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at <https://docenti.unicatt.it/ppd2/it/docenti/27954/paolo-antonio-benedetto-valvo/profilo> or on the Faculty notice board.