-. History of the Contemporary World

Prof. Marta Busani

COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to provide the knowledge necessary to reconstruct the general framework of Italian and European history from the beginning of the twentieth century up to the Cold War. Recalling the most enigmatic parts of contemporary history will provide important historical and cultural tools for maturing students' judgment skills and sense of personal responsibility. More specifically, the course aims to:

* develop a critical approach to the study of the discipline, paying attention to the causal links and long-term relationships between the history of the twentieth century and the present world;
* promote awareness of the historical factors that led to the advent of totalitarianism and the crisis of democracy in Europe.

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

* know and understand the fundamental junctions of twentieth-century history, from the beginning of the century to the Cold War;
* reflect on some of the dynamics that have marked twentieth-century history and which still raise crucial questions;
* develop a critical understanding of human action in history, necessary for greater autonomous judgement skills in relation to education and training interventions.

COURSE CONTENT

The course will address the history of the twentieth century and, in particular, the contrasting development of democracy and the advent of totalitarian regimes. Starting from the avant-garde of the century and the experiences of millions of Europeans in the trenches of the Great War, we will then focus on the history of totalitarianism, reflecting on the nature of politics and the role of the individual and the community in the era of modernisation and mass society. During the first semester, some of the aspects of European and Italian history that paved the way to totalitarianism will be analysed. In the second semester, we will focus on the political-institutional, ideological and organisational dimensions that characterise fascism and totalitarianism, regimes that have highlighted the vulnerability of liberal democracy when challenged by movements that mobilise collective passions in the name of fundamentalist and intolerant ideologies. The problem of consensus and the forms of resistance to totalitarian regimes, and thus the relations they have established with civil society and citizens, will also be explored.

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

1. A. Ventrone,the *Grande Guerra e Novecento. La storia che ha cambiato il mondo*, Donzelli, Rome, 2015 (pp. 3-35 and 81-212). [*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/ventrone-angelo/grande-guerra-e-novecento-9788868431686-224538.html)

2. *La tentazione totalitaria. Materiali per il corso di Storia del mondo contemporaneo, Educatt, 2022.* [*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/gentile-emilio/il-fascismo-in-tre-capitoli-9788842073239-174227.html)

To contextualise the issues addressed during the course, students should refer to the manual AA Banti, *L'età contemporanea. Dalla Grande Guerra a oggi*, Laterza, Rome-Bari, 2019 (chapters 1-4 and 6-10).[*Purchase from VP*](https://librerie.unicatt.it/scheda-libro/giovanni-sabbatucci-vittorio-vidotto/storia-contemporanea-dalla-grande-guerra-a-oggi-9788859300434-555537.html)

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal lectures, integrated with the support of iconographic and audiovisual documentation. The lecture materials will be made available to students through the University's Blackboard platform.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

An oral exam (interview). Students will be able to divide the exam into two parts and take an interim test (also in the form of an oral interview) that will take place during the January-February 2023 exam session. The interim test will focus on the topics covered in the first semester (which will refer to the volume of A. Ventrone indicated in the reading list) and on the topics of general history that will be indicated at the beginning of the course. The scheduling of the interim test will be announced on the Blackboard platform, through which it will be possible to register. The completion of the exam will take place starting from the summer session. There will be a single final mark, taken from the average of the result obtained for the interim test (50%) and that obtained for the second interview (50%).

The assessment will take into account the following elements: knowledge and critical reworking of the studied contents; understanding of the contextual links between events; and presentation clarity and effectiveness.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Being introductory in nature, there are no prerequisites for attending the course.

Should the current Covid-19 health emergency not allow face-to-face teaching, remote teaching will be guaranteed using methods that will be communicated in good time to students.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at http://docenti.unicatt.it/.

1. The texts indicated in the reading list may be purchased at the University bookstores; they may also be bought from other outlets. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)