# -. Modern and contemporary history

## Prof. Danilo Zardin

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

The aim of the course is to shed light on the cultural and social foundations that underlie the development known by Western Europe in its evolution in the modern and contemporary age.

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

– know the fundamental turning points of the birth and development of the modern world in an interdisciplinary perspective and in relation to the outcomes that have led to the outlining of the current socio-cultural context;

– understand and experience the characteristics of the argumentative method based on evidence, which is the basis of the historical reconstruction of the transition from the past to our present;

– focus the attention to the historical dimension of cultural contexts and social problems through methods of implementing educational and training interventions suited to the stratified and multipolar complexity of the contemporary world;

– be able to communicate information relating to historical knowledge by relating it to the data and skills of other disciplines.

***COURSE CONTENT***

‒ Two fundamental pillars at the basis of Western civilization: the dignity of the human person (reason, freedom, the value of conscience, the emergence of rights) and the feeling of unity of the European civilization. Their roots and the fruitful continuity of a tradition that has come down to us, which still challenges us in the present reality.

Subsequent lines of study:

– fundamental characters and issues in the development of European cultural identity;

– birth and affirmation of the modern state. Its effects on the organisation of society and the governance of collective life (from the beginnings of modernity to the new international order moulded in the 19th-20th centuries);

‒ elements of rupture in the transition to the contemporary world and underground forces of stability that create kinship ties with the historical panorama of the past.

***READING LIST***

D. Zardin, *Nel cantiere della modernità. Storia, memoria, identità*, Edizioni di Pagina, Bari, 2019.

P. Prodi, *Introduzione allo studio della storia moderna*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 1999 (excluding the ch. VII and the final appendices).

AJ. Mayer, *Il potere dell’Ancien Régime fino alla prima guerra mondiale*, Laterza, Rome-Bari, 1982 (or subsequent reissues).

Ch. Taylor, *Il disagio della modernità*, Laterza, Rome-Bari, 1994 (rist. 2018).

***TEACHING METHOD***

Classroom lessons, with the use of further study documentation (texts and images) available through the Blackboard platform on the University website.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is oral. Students can divide it into two parts with an interim exam (always in the form of an oral interview) to be taken during the January-February break between the two semesters of the course. The interim exam will focus on the topics covered in the first semester and on the first two textbooks indicated in the reading list; the final interview will cover the remaining part of the programme and the other textbooks in the reading list. Alternatively, students may choose to take the exam in a single session at the end of the course.

The assessment criteria are: the accuracy in understanding the textbooks and materials studied, the clarity of presentation of the contents, and the ability to critically assimilate them (proportionate to the level of a second year general course).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

For the exam preparation, students are required to use the supporting teaching materials available on Blackboard to contextualise and perfect the study of the textbooks indicated in the reading list.

Since the course is introductory there are no content-related prerequisites for attending it, however students whit a previous knowledge of the civilization of the ancient and medieval world included in the first year of the degree course will be favoured.

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