UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Contemporary History

2021-1-E1901R118

Course title

An Introduction to Contemporary History and to the History of the Italian Republic

Topics and course structure

A good knowledge of the main outline of Global, European and Italian history from 1945 to present day is requested.

Here follow some (only some) of the topics dealt with in the course

Communism: theoretical assumptions and egalitarian theories throughout the history of political thought

The cold war until the dissolution of the Ussr

The Vietnam War

Political transformations in Italy until the first center-left government

The economic boom

Students' protest, the workers' protest "Autunno caldo", the extraparliamentary left

The Piazza Fontana slaughter, Giuseppe Pinelli's death, "commissario" Luigi Calabresi's murder

Italian terrorism and the so called "lead years"

The Red Brigades, the kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro

N.B. Various topics may change in depth and order due to circumstances and needs of the course

Objectives

This course, with a steady and active participation to lessons, tries to promote the following learnigs, in terms of:

Knowledge and understanding of historical events

Relate knowledges and models far form us in time and space

Implement knowledges and models centering around the basic category of TIME

If the educator is a social operator then some knowledge of the world in which he/she lives should help he/she to reach a more mature awareness of him/her in relation to that world and of that world in relation with him/her

Methodologies

AS LONG AS HEALTH EMERGENCY LASTS LESSON WILL BE DELIVERED ONLINE RECORDED AND LOADED ON e-learnig/Moodle

The professor will try to explain topics most useful for a better understanding of the books in the syllabus and to give basic conceptual means to better prepare for the exam.

Lessons will be delivered in Italian.

Online and offline teaching materials

If the case they will be conveyed during the lessons

Programme and references for attending students

1. William I. Hitchcock, Il continente diviso. Storia dell'Europa dal 1945 a oggi, Carocci editore, Roma, 2003

2. Andrea Saccoman, Siate realisti, chiedete l'impossibile. Gli anni Settanta ricordati a chi non c'era, Milano Unicopli, 2013

3. A book (only one) among the following titles (the chosen one must be studied in its entirety):

Giovanni Bianconi, *Eseguendo la sentenza. Roma, 1978. Dietro le quinte del sequestro Moro*, Torino, Einaudi,

2008

Giorgio Boatti, *Piazza Fontana. 12 dicembre 1969: il giorno dell'innocenza perduta*, Torino, Einaudi, 2009

Thomas G. Fraser, *Il conflitto arabo-israeliano*, Bologna, il Mulino, new edition 2015

Agostino Giovagnoli, *Il caso Moro. Una tragedia repubblicana*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2018

Mitchell K. Hall, *La guerra del Vietnam*, Bologna, il Mulino, new edition 2020

Giuseppe Mammarella, *L'Italia di oggi. Storia e cronaca di un ventennio, 1992-2012*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2012

Andrea Saccoman, *Le Brigate rosse a Milano. Dalle origini della lotta armata alla fine della colonna «Walter Alasia»*, Milano, Unicopli, 2013

Joseph Smith, *La guerra fredda*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2000

Other titles, differing from the above mentioned, can be agreed upon speaking personally with the teacher, including books in English.

Programme and references for non-attending students

THE SAME AS ATTENDING STUDENTS

Assessment methods

AS LONG AS HEALTH EMERCENCY LASTS EXAMS WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONLINE USING WEBEX.

Oral exam.

Effective speech, knowledge of general content and interpretation lines will be taken into account in the final evaluation.

More precisely: students will be asked to expose a basic theme FOR EACH AND EVERY BOOK OF THE PROGRAMME, to assess the real understanding of the books themselves.

STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO PRESENT THE TOPICS ASKED AS IF THE PERSON IN FRONT KNEW NOTHING OF THE SUBJECT MATTERS THEMSELVES AND SHOULD BE TAUGHT ABOUT ESSENTIAL, BASIC, MOST IMPORTANT THINGS.

The exam will be managed as far as possible as a dialogue between the teacher and the student, trying to build a flowing conversation with full sense, related also to across-the-board themes. Good use of the italian language in its oral form will be taken into account for the final assessment. Previous knowledge understood in studies before

University level will be taken as established. Student can use programme texts during the exam. The one who studied and understood those texts will be able in a few second to find any name, date or other information he/she does not remember at the moment. The one who did not study enough and/or understand will not solve the problem browsing like a madman at the moment. A clever use of the texts as instruments shows the student learnt a method. Even professional historians work repeatedly consulting books, references, documents. Learning by heart all and everything is simply unattainable. The whole range of marks will be used from 18 to 30 cum laude. Establishing universal and unambigous criteria about the way you define the final mark is impossible with an oral exam. Anyway we can say what determines the failure of the exam: alla questions, even the simplest and easiest, unanswered; continued unacceptable blunders. Here some examples: "Cuba lays North of the Usa"; "The Piazza Fontana slaughter was made by the Red Brigades"; "The Movimento Sociale Italiano was an extreme left political party". Only one blunder will not spoil the exam, but more than one will.

Office hours

BY APPOINTMENT TO BE ARRANGED VIA EMAIL

Programme validity

Two academic years starting from first introduction

Course tutors and assistants

Prof. Enio De Marzo

Prof. Raffaele Moncada