UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Modern History

2021-1-E1901R117

Course title

The crisis of the Spanish colonial empire in the eighteenth century and the wars of independence

Topics and course structure

The 2020-21 course will examine the changes that took place in Spanish colonial America during the eighteenth century and the elements that led to the wars of independence and the disintegration of the colonial system in the first decades of the following century.
The course will initially focus on the analysis of the main reforms in the system of government of the colonies planned by the Bourbon dynasty of Spain in the more general framework of a reorganization of the State, inspired by the "enlightened despotism". This will allow us to grasp the profound changes that occurred in colonial society itself that led to the formation of a Creole society and its contradictory relationship with the peninsular metropolis. Finally, we will consider the main liberation movements that in South America will lead to the formation of a new geopolitical structure.
The aim of the course is the knowledge and the understanding of some aspects of greater historical and social relevance that underlie the colonial systems and decolonizing movements. Students will be able to identify the starting point of those globalization processes which today reach a particularly intense level; the hub was the Atlantic Ocean, the real new axis of international politics and economics in the eighteenth century that gradually incorporated the rest of the world. This part of the course will allow also the student to fix some relationships with the actual phenomena of globalization. In terms of state policies, students will be able to appreciate the application

in a specific and highly characterized area such as South America, of those state centralization policies implemented in the Europe of Absolutism, as well as their limits and their failure in front of mounting indigenous claims and independence movements.

Objectives

Acquire general knowledge about the period from 1492 to 1815, and gain a deeper understanding of a specific issue in the period considered.

Methodologies

1. A course about a specific subject of Modern History

2. A presentation of the main historical issues regarding this period

Online and offline teaching materials

Didactic materials will be progressively included in the dashboard of modern history, during the course.

Programme and references for attending students

-General modern history
C. Capra, Storia moderna (1492-1848), Firenze, Le Monnier, 2011, pp. 1-361 .

From 1492 to 1815

- Specific subject :

M. Donattini, Dal *Nuovo Mondo all'America. Scoperte geografiche e colonialismo (secoli XV-XVI*), Roma, Carocci, 2013.

Programme and references for non-attending students

- General modern history
C. Capra, Storia moderna (1492-1848), Firenze, Le Monnier, 2011, pp. 1-361 .

From 1492 to **1815**

Exclude any parts of the manual dedicated to the period after 181

- Specific subject:

F. Morelli, *Il mondo atlantico. Una storia senza confini (secoli XV-XIX)*, Roma, Carocci, 2013

H.S. Klein, *Il commercio atlantico degli schiavi*, Roma, Carocci, 2014

F. Morelli, *L'indipendenza dell'America spagnola. Dalla crisi delle monarchia alle nuove repubbliche*, Firenze, Le Monnier, 2015.

Assessment methods

.Written and oral exam

The exam consists of two parts: an institutional one (general history), to be taken through a written test, in order to show a good knowledge of the main features of modern history, and a monographic one that will be taken through an oral test. The written exam is a preliminary test that the student has to pass in order to be admitted to the oral test. Once the written test is passed, the student can choose when to sit the oral exam, starting from the same session.

N.B. At the time of assignement of the paper, candidates who do not consider their writing exam sufficient will have the right to cancel it. This shall in no case prejudice the final evaluation.
Instead, the assignment of a heavily incorrect paper will face a negative evaluation that will affect the final exam result.

Office hours

To be defined at the beginning of the academic year

Programme validity

Course tutors and assistants

Dott.sa Nicoletta Rolla