



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### Modern History

2425-1-E1901R117

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#### Course title

Origins of human rights and the idea of public happiness in early modern times

#### Topics and course structure

The course is in Italian. It is focused on social, political and cultural history in early modern times (late 15th century to early 19th century). The course offers both a detailed introduction to the course of events in this period (in Europe and the world) and an in-depth analysis of a monographic subject, always selected among those which are more generally relevant to modernity, that is, to present day concerns. The purpose is to promote the knowledge and understanding of this historical period. A further general purpose is to develop intellectual and cultural tools for a better understanding of past and present society.

#### Objectives

Students will familiarize with 1) the basic chronologies and historical facts of early modern times; 2) historiographical terms; 3) methods of critical analysis of historiography.

Core skills:

Developing historical awareness and knowledge, as a means of knowing and measuring social and political reality (Knowledge and Understanding);

Developing independent judgement, through critical analysis and the integration of sources and information (Making Judgements);

Developing the ability to identify and communicate problems and ideas (Communication Skills).

## **Methodologies**

Lectures plus collective discussion on sources or documents and presentations (20% max). In person. To develop core skills, the students will work in reading groups on the monograph selected for the oral exam. These groups will give a presentation toward the end of the course and receive a written feedback.

## **Online and offline teaching materials**

Presentations, documents and recordings of the lectures will be uploaded during the course.

## **Programme and references**

Students will be conversant with the subjects treated in the lectures and read two books. Required reading:

1. one textbook on early modern history:  
Carlo Capra, *Storia moderna. 1492-1848*, Milano, Mondadori Education, 2021 (chapters 27 to 30 not included). 2. one monograph (or two short monographs).  
Students not proficient in Italian: please contact the professor about the programme.

## **Assessment methods**

A written exam (a test on 1. basic notions on the early modern period and 2. the articulate understanding of significant historical issues) followed by an oral exam a few days later or at a later date. Students not proficient in Italian: please contact the professor about exams and details on assessment criteria (based on knowledge and understanding). See the Objectives.

## **Office hours**

Office hours are by appointment, either online or in the professor's office.

## **Programme validity**

Two years.

## **Course tutors and assistants**

dr. Tazio Morandini

## Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY

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