UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Modern History

2526-2-F0101R066

Course title

Consuming (without understanding) the world: history, politics, exchanges and needs

Topics and course structure

The program consists of a general part and a thematic one.

Thematic Part: The course investigates consumption as an effective token for needs, wishes, lifestyles, networks and real economy. Particular attention will be drawn to the evolution of food consumption patterns starting from the great geographical explorations and the Colombian exchange, considering the analysis of new forms of organization of production, the establishment of the Atlantic trade, and the first forms of intensive globalization, highlighting the absolute novelties, the implications for all the continents involved and notably the long-term legacies. Through the analysis of consumption, and especially food consumption, we will investigate the deep connections between production systems, fiscal flows, institutional choices, market dynamics, widespread habits, fashions and lifestyles.

General Part: A journey through the main pivots and periodizations useful for orienting in the history of different areas of the world , with a focus on Modern Times [16-19th centuries]. The program privileges the social, political, economic and cultural features and institutions that are at the origin of and maintain a profound connection with contemporary arrangements. The general part includes a general introduction to history as auxiliary knowledge to the anthropological gaze, including methodological aspects and the use of sources.

Objectives

Through this course, with regular and active participation in lessons, we aim to PROMOTE the following learning outcomes, in terms of:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Knowledge and understanding of the contemporary world in its socio-cultural, political, institutional and economic components from an evolutionary/diachronic perspective.
- Ability to relate events and dynamics that are geographically and chronologically distant from each other; study of the causal link between distinct spheres of a given historical context.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding:

- Ability to apply knowledge and interpretative and functional models of the modern era to subsequent eras, with particular reference to the contemporary scenario; ability to critically use comparative perspectives; prudent use and discernment in the use of information sources.

**Autonomy of judgement: **

- Understanding the complexity of cultural processes, accepting and valuing different points of view and overcoming stereotypes and prejudices.
- Evaluating the consequences of one's actions and decisions, adopting a reflective and responsible attitude.

Communication skills:

- Expressing ideas, knowledge and arguments clearly.
- Draft texts and reports, using different forms of expression (audio, video, digital, artistic).
- Formulate well-founded judgements, integrating information from different and reliable sources.

Learning skills:

- Develop and refine one's own learning methods, independently identifying and constructing objects and topics of study.

The teaching, in its dual approach, aims to build an understanding of phenomena by considering their past, both in the European context and in its intercontinental dynamics.
Through the sum of these acquisitions, the course contributes to the student's education, with particular reference to the exit profile, enhancing their independence of judgement and problem-solving skills.

Methodologies

Lectures, interaction through class debate on class materials, seminars held by specialists, slides and blog. Individual presentations and group work are foreseen.

Live, streaming classes, in Italian, with recording available

Didactic methods: classical lectures [40 hours] as well as interactive learning di [16 hours]
Both held in-person (besides streaming) [except a max 15% online teaching - on demand]

Online and offline teaching materials

Selection of readings, videos and further didactic tools.

Programme and references

Bellabarba, M Lavenia, V, Introduzione alla storia moderna, Bologna, Mulino 2018:, pp.23-244
Vanhaute, E., Introduzione alla World History, Mulino, 2015

Assessment methods

To attending-students:

Written Exam: 2 open questions (1 on the general part and 1 on the thematic part covered in the course program)

Evaluation criteria: the evaluation will consider the comprehensiveness of the students' knowledge, together with the effectiveness of their written and oral performace, both in terms of structure, and with respect to its formal features.

Office hours

From March to early June, while the course is running:
Wednesday 10:30-12:30
office 3087 building U6
by appointment (please write to laura.prosperi@unimib.it)

Programme validity

Programs last two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

None

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | ZERO HUNGER | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION