



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Contemporary History

2526-1-E4002N003

Learning objectives

The course provides an overview of contemporary history (Italian, European, and international) and the tools necessary for a critical understanding of the main social, economic, political, and cultural issues of the contemporary era.

Knowledge and understanding

Students will acquire a solid knowledge of the key events, processes, actors, and transformations that have shaped contemporary history. They will develop a critical understanding of political, social, economic, and cultural contexts, drawing on both primary sources and historiographical interpretations.

Applying knowledge and understanding

Students will be able to apply historical knowledge to analyze complex phenomena, interpret documentary sources, and place events within broader historical frameworks. They will also demonstrate the ability to connect historical understanding with current issues.

Making judgements

Students will develop independent and critical thinking skills, enabling them to evaluate different historiographical perspectives, assess the reliability of sources and arguments, and reflect on the role of historical narratives in shaping memory, identity, and public discourse.

Communication skills

Students will be able to express historical knowledge and arguments clearly and coherently, both orally and in writing, using appropriate terminology. They will be capable of summarizing complex texts and presenting well-structured interpretations to audiences with varying levels of expertise.

Learning skills

Students will demonstrate the ability to pursue further study in history and related fields independently, using bibliographic tools, primary sources, databases, and digital resources. They will be able to critically follow historiographical debates and understand the relevance of history for interpreting contemporary society.

Contents

Italian, european and international history in the twentieth century: politics, culture and society.

Detailed program

The course focuses on the history of the 20th century, starting with the Great War, outlining the European and international events of the “short century.” Particular attention will be paid to Italy in relation to the international context. After introducing the reasons for and meaning of historical knowledge, the tools, sources, and methodologies for learning about and understanding the fundamental processes of the contemporary age, together with the main historiographical and methodological issues, the course will address the main political, social, cultural, and economic turning points that characterized the 20th century, extending into the early years of the 21st century.

Through the course, students will acquire the essential knowledge and tools necessary for the development of a critical reading of contemporary events, starting with a mastery of the main periods that mark the political, social, and cultural history of the 20th century.

Translated with DeepL.com (free version)

Prerequisites

Students need to be familiar with the main elements of Italian and international contemporary history.

Teaching methods

Lecture

Assessment methods

Written screening test and oral examination

Textbooks and Reading Materials

For the exam, it is mandatory to study the textbook (section 1) and one book of your choice among those proposed in section 2.

Section 1

G. Sabbatucci, V. Vidotto, Storia contemporanea. Dalla Grande Guerra a oggi, Bari-Roma, Laterza, (ultima edizione)

Section 2

one of the following books:

- G. Crainz, Storia della repubblica. L'Italia dalla Liberazione ad oggi, Roma, Donzelli, 2016.
- G. Crainz, Storia del miracolo italiano. Cultura, identità, trasformazioni fra anni cinquanta e sessanta, Roma, Donzelli, 2005.
- M. Flores, Il genocidio, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2021
- E. Gentile, Il culto del littorio, Bari-Roma, Laterza, 2001
- E. Gentile, Fascismo. Storia e interpretazione, Bari-Roma, Laterza, 2005
- G.L. Mosse, Le origini culturali del Terzo Reich, Milano, Il Saggiatore, 2015
- F. Romero, Storia della guerra fredda. L'ultimo conflitto per l'Europa, Torino Einaudi, 2008
- G. Silei, I fantasmi della golden age, Milano, FrancoAngeli, 2019
- V. Vidotto, Guida allo studio della storia contemporanea, Roma-Bari, Laterza, 2018

Sustainable Development Goals

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