



Syllabus

Academic Year	2020/2021
Program	International Relations
course	Comparative History of Political Systems
Term	I semester
Year	1
SSD	M-STO/04 - Storia contemporanea
Credits	6

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

The instructional goals communicate the general aim of the teaching activity and provide the content of the course. They give direction to the course. They are broader than learning outcomes

The course will provide students with the in-depth knowledge and advanced analytical skills that are necessary to understand how advanced democracies work, which are the main challenges that they must face, and how they evolve over time. It will do so by focusing on the history of European democracies since 1789, and in greater detail since 1945, and using historical case studies to enhance the students' ability to comprehend and confront political and social phenomena, both historical and contemporary.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and understanding:

At the end of the course students will have gained a general understanding of the evolution of European democracy in the last two centuries, and an in-depth knowledge of post-1945 European political history.

Applying knowledge and understanding:

An in-depth knowledge of history provides the necessary empirical base for a course in the social sciences. Although historical knowledge cannot be immediately applied in a professional setting, it is a crucial building block of a solid cultural background. Moreover, learning how to think historically is essential to improve analytical skills.

Making judgements:

describe briefly how a learner is expected to receive the necessary tools to solve problems in an.

Studying history means reflecting on the problem-solving exercises of the past. Students trained to critically think about history will possess a rich toolbox of cases that they can use in whatever problem-solving exercise they confront in their professional lives.

Communications Skills:

Students will be asked to present their own research work and participate in class discussions. This will help them learn how to use their historical knowledge and analytical skills in both top-down communication exercises and meaningful conversations.



	Learning skills: The course aims at teaching students how to think historically: how to confront a political event or phenomenon of the past; what kind of empirical evidence should be collected to comprehend it, and where to find it; how to place it within its historical context, connecting it with its past and future; what kind of general lessons can be drawn from it. This is a way of thinking that students will then be able to use in analysing any other phenomena or events, historical as well as contemporary.
Pre-requisites	History of the XIXth and XXth centuries History of political thought Political science
Course content	The course will analyse the evolution of European democracy from 1789 to the present. It will provide a general framework of analysis covering the years 1789-1945, and enter into far greater detail on the period 1945-present. In particular, it will consider the political history of the largest Western European countries in the last seventy years.
Reference Books	I. Kershaw, <i>The Global Age: Europe 1950-2017</i> , 2019 A. Nicholls, <i>The Bonn Republic. West German Democracy, 1945-1990</i> , 1998 N. Atkin, <i>The Fifth French Republic</i> , 2005 J. Gaffney, <i>Political leadership in France. From Charles De Gaulle to Nicholas Sarkozy</i> , 2010 R. Vinen, <i>Thatcher's Britain: The Politics and Social Upheaval of the 1980s</i> , 2010 G. Orsina, <i>Berlusconism and Italy. A Historical Interpretation</i> , 2014 P. Corduwener, <i>The Problem of Democracy in Postwar Europe: Political Actors and the Formation of the Postwar Model of Democracy in France, West Germany and Italy</i> , 2018
Teaching Methods	The course will mix lectures with group project works on case studies that will be presented and discussed in class.
Assessment	The assessment will be based on the project work (30%), a midterm written exam (30%), and a final written exam (40%).
