



Syllabus

Academic Year	2020/2021
Program	International Relations
Course	History of International Relations
Term	I semester
Year	1
SSD	SPS/06 - Storia delle relazioni internazionali
Credits	6

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

The course is based on a multidisciplinary approach. It aims at combining elements of History and Theory of International Relations with History of International Institutions.

The objective is to allow the students to acquire a deep knowledge of the reshaping of the system of International relations starting from the Wartime Conferences until the German Reunification. The main goal is to understand how the issues emerged in the bipolar context were intertwined and expression of a global strategy. This “constant exercise” to combine the West and East perceptions and evolution of balance of power along the entire period of the Cold War will enable students to obtain the key to understand the origin and the role of the present day actors of the international environment

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Knowledge and understanding:**

By the end of the course the students will acquire:  
Better knowledge of the international scenario during the Cold War  
They will be able to understand the global balance of power determined by the aftermath of the Second World War  
And finally looking at the past they will be able to better understand the current political equilibrium and the role played by new international actors.

**Applying knowledge and understanding:**

Students will be able to apply their acquired knowledge in their professional activities in the following way:  
They will be able to carry out research in the International Relations History for both academic and professional purposes. In details they can draft and prepare policy papers for policy makers, journalists and they can provide analysis of areas of crisis for think tanks around the world.

**Making judgements:**

The course will employ a critical approach and will incentive students to engage critical discussion of the reading and topics analyzed along the course.  
Students are expected to develop an autonomous and critical judgement view on the issues presented during the lessons

**Communications Skills:**

Students will be asked to contribute to the debate held in class, by doing it they will improve their communication skills and they will consolidate a critical thought.

**Learning skills:**

Better capacity to design and develop research work related to the field of International Relations.  
Better capacity to disseminate orally the major topics critically analyzed.



Pre-requisites	Contemporary History
Course content	<p>The course will be divided into two parts.</p> <p>The first part will be dedicated to the study of the international order determined by the Wartime Conferences held during the World War II and the outbreak and consolidation of the bipolar order until the end of the Cold War (1943-1989).</p> <p>Inside this first bloc, we will outline the reasons leading to the outbreak of the Cold War and its major internal periodization. From the militarized bipolarism until the raise and collapse of the Détente and its major consequences.</p> <p>The second part will be dedicated to Southern European transition to democracy. In particular we will focus on Greece, Spain and Portugal their European policy in the context of their belonging to the Western area, since the beginning of the Fifties up to the major consequences of the latest 2007 economic crisis.</p> <p>The course will confront students with the main following topics:</p> <p>The Cold War a bipolar or a unipolar system? The militarization of the international context The outbreak of the Cold War and the division of Germany US Foreign Policy from Eisenhower to Kennedy From the sovietization of Eastern Europe to the destalinization process The outbreak of the Cold War and the Western European Reaction Us foreign policy from Kennedy to Johnson and the main feature of Detente in Europe The evolution of the bipolar balance of power in the Mediterranean area during the '70s The main evolution under Carter Administration Soviet and American foreign policy from Detente to the ascent of Gorbachev and Reagan German reunification and Europe's reactions to the collapse of the Berlin Wall The impact of Atlanticism and Europeanism in the Southern European democratization</p>
Reference Books	<p>Odd Arne Westad, <b><i>The Cold War, a World History</i></b>, Allen Lane, Penguin 2017.</p> <p>M.E. Cavallaro, K. Kornetis, <b><i>Rethinking democratization in Spain, Greece and Portugal</i></b>, Palgrave MacMillan, 2019, St. Antony Series</p>
Teaching Methods	<p>The course will be based on lectures and seminars: the lectures will provide the basic knowledge related to the history of Europe. Seminars will see group of two or three students present a paper which correspond to a deepening of some topics studied during the lectures. These papers will be discussed and their content will be challenged by the instructors and the other students in class. After this stage, those who presented a paper, will have to provide a written text taking into account the critiques and notes received during their presentation.</p>
Assessment	<p>They will have to present a written essay which accounts for 1/3 of the final vote They also have to pass an oral final exam based on the book content and the materials provided by the instructors, together with the issues deeply analyzed in class</p>