



## Syllabus

Academic Year	2021/2022
Program	Politics: Philosophy and Economics
Course	Contemporary History
Term	I semester
Year	1
SSD	M-STO/04 - Storia contemporanea
Credits	8

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS	<p>The course will train students to understand the interpretative nature of the history of our times, concentrating on the core issues and events that have characterized the so-called age of the struggle between democracy and totalitarianism (roughly 1848-1960). They will learn why historical events matter for developing approaches to solve today's political, social and economic problems.</p>
INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES	<p><b>Knowledge and understanding:</b> The student is able to understand the political, social and economic transformations of the 19th and 20th centuries in their global dimensions, grasping their links of cause and effect as well as continuity and discontinuity in their developments.</p> <p><b>Applying knowledge and understanding:</b> The student is able to grasp historical references in the public debate, distinguishing the instrumental uses of them from the correct ones.</p> <p><b>Making judgements:</b> The student acquires methodologies and conceptual tools useful for developing analysis and interpretations of historical events. Independent judgment is verified during the exam.</p> <p><b>Communications Skills:</b> The student develops the ability to communicate his knowledge and the results of his study through appropriate language.</p> <p><b>Learning skills:</b> The student develops a study capacity suitable for analyzing contemporary problems in a medium and long term historical perspective.</p>
Pre-requisites	None. A general mental affinity to politics and history will be very helpful.



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Course content	<p>This course covers a restrained period within the broader era of contemporary history (1789-1989); the entire bi-secular period has to be well understood, but the focus of the course contents is put on the so called "Age of Democracy and Totalitarianism", the rise of aggressive nationalism in combination with racism and anti-semitism on the one side, the development of democracy, liberalism and social progress on the other – and their interaction.</p> <p>It covers the European national movement of the 19th Century, the rise of socialism and the radicalization of Marxism towards Bolshevism, the development of fascism and Nazism out of World War I and the development of both tendencies in the 20th Century into what Hannah Arendt defines as Totalitarianism; the clash between these two phenomena and the defence of Democracy in World War II. The survival of Stalinism after 1945 until Destalinization in the 1950's constitute the end of that period.</p>
Reference Books	<p>Compulsory:</p> <p>HOBSBAWM Eric (1995) The Age of Capital.</p> <p>HOBSBAWM Eric (1989) The Age of Empire.</p> <p>FISCHER Conan (2011) Europe between Democracy and Dictatorship, 1900-1945</p> <p>LEFFLER and WESTAD (2010) The Cambridge History of the Cold War. Vol. 1</p> <p>Suggested extra-readings:</p> <p>BERGER Stefan (2008) A Companion to Nineteenth Century Europe</p> <p>MARTEL Gordon (2006) A Companion to Europe 1900-1945</p> <p>MARTEL Gordon (2007) A Companion to International History 1900-2001</p> <p>LARRES Klaus (2009) A Companion to Europe after 1945</p>
Teaching Methods	<p>Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, lectures have to be done mainly in frontal teaching form.</p> <p>Students have to read beforehand the texts indicated for each session. The instructor will ask a voluntary student at each lecture to give a 5 min summary. If there are no voluntaries, the instructor may appoint a student to do the summary.</p> <p>The quality of the summary presentations will have an impact on the final oral exam. A good summary will be noted by the instructor with "+", a bad one with "-" and the refusal by an asked student to do any summary with "0".</p> <p>Students can choose between 2 options for the 20% part of the final grade: a) doing an individual 10 min. presentation in class (also online) on an assigned historical document, or b) doing an individual written analysis of a given historical document of about 2000 words.</p>
Assessment	<p>The exam consists in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 20% for the oral document analysis in class OR written document analysis (2000 words) to be submitted in PDF to teachers.</li><li>2. 80% for the final oral exam; relevant are the above indicated compulsory readings (Hobsbawm, Fischer, Westad) and all content dealt with during lectures (the single lecture-preparation readings are helpful)</li></ol>

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