



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore

History of international relations

PROF. MIRENO BERETTINI

Course aims and intended learning outcomes

The course aims at retracing the main processes of transformation of the European and global international relations between the end of the revolutionary and Napoleonic wars in the early Nineteenth century and our global political agenda. In this sense the course provides elements of basic acquaintance in international history and updated knowledge of the different analytical perspectives on the various historical topics.

Intended Learning Outcomes (knowledge and understanding)

At the end of the course the students will have acquaintance both of the major events in the field of international history and the most important related historiographical interpretations. Furthermore, the students will also have those basic cultural and cognitive tools very useful, if used in combination with other instruments, for understanding the dynamics of political-diplomatic current affairs.

Intended Learning Outcomes (applying knowledge and understanding)

By strengthening their critical thinking and giving them the basic instrument for historiographical inquiries, at the end of the course the students will have more instruments to analyze, in the light of historical processes, and to communicate, with a proper specific vocabulary, both the past and present dynamics of international politics.

Course content

The course is organized in five modules, from the Congress of Vienna to the scenarios following the breakdown of the Soviet system.

Module 1: European System & Global Relations from the Restoration to the Crimean War (1815-1856).

Module 2: European System & Global Relations from the Crimean War to the Great War (1856-1914).

Module 3: European and Global Relations in the Interwar Years (1914-1945).

Module 4: The International Relations between Cold War and Decolonization (1945-1991).

Module 5: A Brand New World? International Relations in a Historical Perspective.

Reading list

Attending Students

Lectures notes and slides.

F.R. BRIDGE-R. BULLEN, *The Great Powers and the European States System 1814-1914* (Harlow: Pearson 2005) [chapters indicated during the lessons].

W.R. KEYLOR, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond: An International History since 1900* (Oxford-New York: Oxford University Press 2001) [chapters indicated during the lessons].

M. DE LEONARDIS, *Ultima ratio regum. Forza militare e relazioni internazionali* (Milano: Monduzzi 2013) [chapters indicated during the lessons].



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Students should also be able to expose the contents and significance of a number of relevant diplomatic documents the list of which will be provided on the teachers' websites.

Non Attending Students

F.R. BRIDGE-R. BULLEN, *The Great Powers and the European States System 1814-1914* (Harlow: Pearson 2005).

W.R. KEYLOR, *The Twentieth Century World and Beyond: An International History since 1900* (Oxford-New York: Oxford University Press 2001).

M. DE LEONARDIS, *Ultima ratio regum. Forza militare e relazioni internazionali* (Milano: Monduzzi 2013) [chapters in English, V, VI, VII, VIII, and chapter III, in Italian, of which an English translation is provided].

Students should also be able to expose the contents and significance of a number of relevant diplomatic documents the list of which will be provided on the teachers' websites.

Teaching method

The course is organized in lessons integrated with slides. Materials, instructions and other documents will be published on Blackboard platform. Such a platform will also be the tool for communicating time changes, information on exams, possible program changes and more. All students (attending and non attending) are invited to register on the Blackboard page of the course.

Assessment method and criteria

Examination procedure

The exam, except in exceptional cases, is written and the mark registration is deferred. The test includes completing, in three hours, a series of open-ended questions. For those who want to sit, two partial tests of an hour and a half are expected (exact dates will be displayed on Blackboard). In this case the final mark is determined by the combination of the two intermediate marks. The first test, generally scheduled for January of each academic year, focuses on modules 1 and 2 (from the Congress of Vienna to the Great War), that is on lecture notes and volume B of the reading list. Those who pass can finalize the exam in the next test (generally in May), and only limitedly to that, by studying the remaining part of the program.

Evaluation criteria

The exams assesses both the knowledge and the ability to apply the tools acquired thanks to the lectures, the study of the texts indicated in the bibliography and any additional readings assigned. To the definition of the final mark concur 1) the degree of precision with which the historical 'data' are known (dates, names, positions, articles of treaties); 2) the ability to critically read events; 3) the knowledge of the dynamics that put the latter in connection with each other; 4) the ability to refer to the different historiographical interpretations relating to a specific object of investigation.

Notes and prerequisites

The previous study of contemporary history of the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries is recommended. The use of an atlas and a historical atlas is also recommended.

Office time

Prof. Mireno Berrettini meet students on the occasion of his lectures and in his office in the Department of Political Sciences, Gregorianum building, room 242, at the times indicated in their web pages and on the Department's notice board.