



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore

International history: the wider Mediterranean area

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Course aims and intended learning outcomes

Aim of the course – which is taught in English – is providing a framework to understand the historical development and the peculiar traits of the wider Mediterranean region. Emphasis is on the region “as whole” rather than on its sub-divisions. The focus is on the links crisscrossing the region during the Cold War and in the post-Cold War years, shaping the present-day political, economic and social interdependent system.

As far as learning outcomes are concerned, the course aims at:

Intended Learning Outcomes (knowledge and understanding)

1. Providing students with notions on the historical evolution of the wider Mediterranean region, and with tools needed to understand its dynamics;
2. Providing students with skills to frame regional events in a long-term perspective, and to understand their links, antecedents and consequences.

Intended Learning Outcomes (applying knowledge and understanding)

3. Providing students with skills to understand the current wider Mediterranean scene and its development in a broader perspective, unfolding over time and related to other regional economic, social and cultural dynamics.
4. Providing students with skills to present the course content in a clear and precise form, and to express their knowledge by correctly using terms, concepts, relationships and periodizations that are proper of the historical disciplines.
5. Providing students with skills to integrate the different contents of the course together, and to identify the relationships existing, at different levels, with other segments of their educational path, emphasizing the multidisciplinary approach that characterize the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences.

Course content

1. Setting the scene: the concept of “wider Mediterranean”, its origins, meaning, and historical development.
2. In the shadow of the “old” colonialism: the wider Mediterranean in the age of the “European order”.
3. The times they are a-changin’? Decolonization, state building, and political rivalries in a troublesome region.
4. From “soft underbelly” to “NATO’s southern flank”: the Cold War’s impact on the regional balance.
5. The Nineties: the challenges of the post-bipolar order and the search for an elusive “new security architecture”.
6. Fear, weakness, and the need for a different paradigm: today’s challenges in the wider Mediterranean.

Reading list

The reading list will be provided after the beginning of the course, and will be published on the Blackboard online learning platform.



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Teaching method

Lectures, possibly supported by conferences, seminars, and guest speakers on specific topics. To pass their exam, students shall submit a written paper on a topic chosen from a list posted on the Blackboard online learning platform after the beginning of the course. Aim of the paper is assessing students' preparation and ability in integrating the different contents of the course.

Assessment method and criteria

Final oral exam on different topics of the course, accounting for 60% of the final mark. Students will be assessed on their ability to express themselves correctly, use the specific vocabulary, concepts and chronological sequences of the discipline. The exam will be complemented by the assessment of students' written papers as explained in the section above (accounting for 40% of the final mark). The exam takes place with the lecturer and/or one of his assistants. Marks are out of 30. Pass mark is 18/30 and above; top mark is 30/30, to which a 'cum laude' can be added for excellent answers.

Notes and prerequisites

To fruitfully attend the course, a good knowledge of the fundamentals of international relations as well as of the fundamentals of history of international relations and institutions (with a specific reference to the period following World War II) is warmly suggested.

Course materials and communications will be published only on the Blackboard online learning platform. Among them (but not only) info regarding: suspensions and/or relocations of lessons; suspensions and/or changes in office hours; recoup lessons; integrations and/or amendments in the reading list; conferences, seminars, guest speakers, etc.

For this reason, all students (attending or not, enrolled in the course in the present academic year or in previous ones) are strongly invited to enroll on the Blackboard online learning platform too.