

FACULTY OF **ARTS AND LETTERS**

DEGREE COURSE: **FASHION AND DESIGN BA**

**SUBJECT:** CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

**LECTURER:** SILVIA BIANCIARDI

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## **OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of this course is to provide a widespread and comprehensive knowledge about the history of the Twentieth Century. The lessons aim to analyze the dynamics of political, economic and socio-cultural development during the Twentieth Century. Lessons will also offer some important historiographical interpretations of the main issues of contemporary history.

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## **CONTENTS**

The topics of the course are divided into the following thematic units:

- a. The new century and the First World War (the beginning of the Twentieth Century; The Giolitti era in Italy; the First World War; the Russian Revolution);
- b. The rise of totalitarian regimes and the new world war (the undecided balance of peace; The twenties and the new international balance; the Italian fascism; the thirties and the totalitarian turn; the Second world war);
- c. The world and the atomic era (postwar years; the world divided into two great competing blocs);
- d. The contemporary world (the competition between East and West; the balance between political powers and areas of crisis; the rise of Europe; Recession and Neo-liberalism in the West; Italy: the crisis of the political system;
- e. The end of the "Cold War" (the fall of Communism; the international crisis; new wars; globalization).

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## **ASSESSMENT**

Written exam: Multiple choice and open questions.

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## **RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS**

Derek Beales and Eugenio Biagini, *The Risorgimento and the Unification of Italy*, Longman, 2002.

Paul Ginsborg, *A History of Contemporary Italy: Society and Politics, 1943-1988*, London: Penguin, 1990.

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