

FACULTY OF ARTS AND LETTERS

DEGREE COURSE: FASHION AND DESIGN BA

SUBJECT: CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

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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.

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.

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.
