



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 36702
Name: Contemporary World History
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1335 - Degree in Political and Public Administration Sciences	Facultat de Dret	1	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1335 - Degree in Political and Public Administration Sciences	Historia	BASIC

COORDINATION

ARCHILES CARDONA FERRAN

ESCRIG ROSA JOSEP

SUMMARY

Contemporary World History is a one-semester basic training course taught in the first year of the Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Public Administration. The course is structured around the study of major global historical processes in the contemporary era. It complements other compulsory subjects, such as *History of Institutions in Contemporary Spain*, and other basic training courses like *History of Political Thought I* and *History of Political Thought II*.

The course is designed to provide students with foundational historical knowledge that will support their understanding of more specialized subjects in subsequent years.

The general objective of *Contemporary World History* is to offer a broad understanding of how modern societies and political systems were shaped, through the study of key historical events, challenges, and processes that defined the 19th and 20th centuries and contributed to the configuration of the contemporary world.

Additionally, the course aims to move beyond a traditional view of history as a mere succession of events,



figures, and political or military developments, by adopting broader perspectives that incorporate sociopolitical and cultural dimensions, which are essential for the academic training of political science students.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

There are no course prerequisites or enrolment restrictions.

However, it is recommended that students possess reading comprehension skills and are able to express themselves clearly in both oral and written Spanish and Valencian.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

-

Conocer y saber analizar las características y pautas de actuación de los principales actores políticos (partidos, sindicatos, grupos de interés y nuevos movimientos sociales).

Interpretar los marcos políticos y procesos históricos estableciendo análisis comparativos de cambio y de prospección futura.

Pensamiento crítico.

Saber analizar escenarios de actuación en política internacional y proponer actuaciones para distintos tipos de actores.

Saber analizar la estructura y funcionamiento de los sistemas y procesos políticos, sus elementos, así como su dimensión histórica, con especial atención al sistema político español y al de la Unión Europea.

Saber distinguir los valores, ideologías, actitudes y pautas de comportamiento de los ciudadanos así como su evolución temporal.

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced



textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

Trabajo en equipo.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. The Birth of the Contemporary Era: Liberal Revolutions, Industrialization, and the Workers' Movement

- Economic liberalism, political liberalism, nationalism, and revolutions
- From the first to the second industrial revolution
- The emergence of workers' movements and their political cultures
- Gender issues in the 19th century: identities, inequality, and the suffrage movement

2. The Fin-de-Siècle Crisis

- The second industrial revolution: the society of mass production and consumption
- Understanding colonialism and imperialism
- Overview of colonial empires from 1880 onwards
- Mass politics at the turn of the century: social, national, and gender questions

3. A World Has Come to an End: From the First to the Second World War

- The First World War and its significance in contemporary history
- The Russian Revolution and the beginnings of the USSR
- Society and politics in the interwar period: gender transformations
- Fascism and antifascism
-



4.The Cold War (1945-1991)

- The making of the post-1945 world: superpowers, decolonization, European integration
- The evolution of the Cold War: major international episodes
- The Golden Age of capitalism, the capital-labour pact, and Welfare States
- The events of May '68, counterculture, civil rights, and the second wave of feminism
- The *Years of Lead* in Europe

5. Recent History

- The *end of history*?
- Neoliberal capitalism and the crisis of the Welfare State
- Social and political movements in a globalized world

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	5,00
Individual or group project	20,00
Independent study and work	45,00
Preparation of lessons	20,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

1. On-site sessions (i.e., in the classroom allocated for the course or student group) will be distributed as follows:

1.1. Lectures: participatory master classes. The lecturer will present and explain the key elements that should guide students in their study and understanding of each topic. Students are expected to take an active role in their learning process by completing the assigned readings; textbooks, monographs, or other materials; before or during class sessions, depending on the schedule.



1.2. Practical classes: debates, discussions, and in-class activities. These sessions will delve deeper into the most relevant or significant aspects of each topic using a range of materials (historical and historiographical texts, films, documentaries, etc.). Participation and preparation for practical sessions are mandatory and will be subject to assessment. These sessions will also serve to familiarize students with the concepts, materials, and methods specific to the discipline of history, and to the analysis of political history in particular.

2. Non-scheduled tutorial sessions:

2.1 Students may attend the regular office hours offered by the instructor to discuss any aspect of the course or their individual work. These tutorial sessions should be considered an extension of classroom instruction and not as occasional or exceptional activities.

2.2 Tutorial consultations may also be conducted by email, depending on the instructor's availability and guidelines.

3. Scheduled tutorial sessions: Where appropriate, the instructor may arrange individual or group meetings with students to:

- Monitor their academic progress and learning process
- Supervise and assess reading assignments and other coursework

4. In addition, specific course-related, interdisciplinary, or cross-curricular activities may be scheduled in coordination with other groups or courses. These will be designed to explore in greater depth topics or issues of special interest. Appropriate academic and administrative planning will be ensured, and such activities will be duly assessed within the learning process.

EVALUATION

The assessment of the course will include the following components:



1. Written and/or oral exam on theoretical content. This component will account for 60% of the final grade.
2. Evaluation of reading assignments and/or individual or group projects, which may include written papers or other forms of coursework. This component will account for 40% of the final grade.
Note: this portion is non-recoverable.

To pass the course, students must obtain a minimum of 5 out of 10 on the written/oral exam. Otherwise, the remaining components will not be counted.

Second examination session:

- Students must retake the written and/or oral exam and achieve a minimum of 5 out of 10. If this minimum is not met, the coursework grades will not be included in the final grade.
- Coursework marks (reading assessments, group or individual assignments) from the first session will be retained and applied in the second session.

REFERENCES

BAYLY, C. A., El nacimiento del mundo moderno, 1780-1914: conexiones y comparaciones globales, Madrid, Siglo XXI, 2010.

GENTILE, E., El fascismo. Historia e interpretación, Madrid, Alianza Editorial, 2005.

HOBBSAWM, E., Historia del siglo XX, Barcelona, Crítica, 2001.

JANSEN, J., OSTERHAMEL, J., Colonialismo. Historia, formas, efectos, Madrid, Siglo XXI, 2019.

JUDT, T., Postguerra, una Historia de Europa desde 1945, Madrid, Taurus, 2006.

KERSHAW, I., Descenso a los infiernos. Europa 1914-1945, Barcelona, Crítica, 2019.

LARIO, Á. (coord.), Historia contemporánea universal: del surgimiento del Estado contemporáneo a la Primera Guerra Mundial, Alianza, 2010.

MAZOWER, M., Gobernar el mundo. Historia de una idea desde 1815, València, BarlinLibros, 2018.



MAZOWER, M., La Europa Negra, València, Barlin Libros, 2017.

OSTERHAMMEL, J., La transformación del mundo. Una historia global del siglo XIX, Barcelona, Crítica, 2015.

OVERY, R., Sangre y ruinas. La gran guerra imperial, 1931-1945, Barcelona, Tusquets, 2024

SEGURA MAS, A., El món d'avui. De la guerra freda als reptes de la interdependència global, Barcelona, UB, 2025.

TRAVERSO, E., A sangre y fuego. De la guerra civil europea (1914-1945), València, PUV, 2009.