



COURSE OF STUDY Historical and Social Sciences

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

ACADEMIC SUBJECT History of contemporary Italy

General information	
Year of the course	First
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	Second semester (26-02-2024 - 17-05-2024)
Credits (CFU/ETCS):	9
SSD	M-STO/04
Language	Italian
Mode of attendance	In person (optional)

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Department and address	DIRIUM, University building, second floor
Virtual room	Teams channel code 2jqbowf
Office Hours (and modalities: e.g., by appointment, on line, etc.)	Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, from 9.00 to 14.00, compatibly with class times, by appointment by e-mail: antonio.bonatesta@uniba.it. Reception hours may vary. Students are kindly requested to check notices and any timetable changes on the professor page. Students can consult the teacher's page on the Department website: https://www.uniba.it/docenti/bonatesta-antonio/attivita-didattica

Work schedule			
Hours			
Total	Lectures	Hands-on (laboratory, workshops, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
225	33	30	162
CFU/ETCS			
9	3	2	4

Learning Objectives	The course focuses on one of the most advanced historiographical fields at present, the history of the relationship between human societies and fundamental environmental matrices and the social, economic, cultural and political implications of this nexus. In particular, the teaching will explore methods, themes and languages of water history.
Course prerequisites	Basic knowledge of global and European history in the contemporary age; periodization, caesuras and historiographical questions on the history of liberal Italy, fascism and the republican age.

Teaching strategie	The teaching is based on the integration of frontal teaching with a part more properly oriented to skills and practical skills, through the organization of seminars, group work, preparation of papers and/or research, case analysis, use of telematics.
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Expected learning outcomes in terms of	
Knowledge and understanding on:	DD1 – Knowledge and understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Male and female students will acquire knowledge and understanding relating to the main environmental issues in the history of contemporary Italy, to its great scansions and periodizations, to the problems and conflicts that have emerged around the use of certain ecological matrices, such as the soil but above all water. This will make it possible to have a categorical and conceptual apparatus capable of allowing autonomous and critical forms of thought.
Applying knowledge and understanding on:	DD2 – Applied knowledge and understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the end of the course, male and female students will have acquired knowledge and ability to interpret general historical processes, apparatuses and conceptual devices, of periodization, such that they can be put to good use through the use and construction of inventories and banks thematic, digital and digitized data.
Soft skills	DD3 – Critical and judgment skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Male and female students will be able to autonomously formulate interpretative hypotheses of historical phenomena, contemplate the concept of complexity and use causal relationships, making use of the knowledge acquired from the sources and from the historiographical debate. DD4 - Communication skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In connection with DD1, DD2 and DD3, and as a consequence of the teaching method, male and female students will have acquired the ability to express themselves using correct Italian and specific jargon, demonstrating critical thinking and mastering the historiographical vocabulary. DD5 - Ability to learn independently <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Male and female students will have to demonstrate that they are able to autonomously deal with the study of history, for different themes and periods, and to think critically about sources, texts and historiographical interpretations. The ability to deal autonomously with specific case studies will also be important.
Syllabus	
Content knowledge	History of water in contemporary Italy The course intends to address the theme of the exploitation of surface and underground water resources in Italy in the 19th and 20th centuries, starting from the intertwining of technical-scientific innovations, economic development, and social consumption. A particular attention will be given on the processes of incorporation of water into production processes and those of urban metabolism, also analyzing the conflicts between irrigation, industrial and drinking uses. The course will therefore focus on phenomena such as the 19th century industrial and agronomic revolutions in Italy, the rupture of the agrarian crisis of the 1970s and 1980s, the processes of urbanization and the late 19th

	<p>century construction of the so-called "health city", the industrial take-off of the Età Giolittiana, the appearance of hydraulic techno-structures and the role of the state as a builder of large water infrastructures (aqueducts, reservoirs, dams) between fascism and republican Italy. Consideration will be given to questioning the repercussions that these factors had on the national water heritage, looking at the economic-juridical cultures that have regulated and regulated its use from time to time. Particular attention will be given to the story of Southern Italy and to the historical processes of breaking the constraints of water scarcity.</p> <p>The ritual and symbolic meanings, cultural and religious practices around the appropriation or denial of water will not be overlooked, and their interference with the social conflicts of appropriation and incorporation.</p>
Texts and readings	<p>For the methodological part, a book chosen from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John R. McNeill, Peter Engelke, <i>La Grande accelerazione Una storia ambientale dell'Antropocene dopo il 1945</i>, Torino, Einaudi, 2018. • C. Bonneuil, J-B. Fressoz, <i>La storia la terra e noi. L'evento Antropocene</i>, Roma, Treccani, 2019. <p>For the institutional part:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings and handouts provided by the teacher during the lessons and made available to students on the Teams channel <p>For the monographic part, one book chosen from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonio Bonatesta, <i>Acqua, Stato, nazione. Storia delle acque sotterranee in Italia dall'età liberale al fascismo</i>, Roma, Donzelli, 2023. • Giacomo Bonan, <i>Le acque agitate della patria. L'industrializzazione del Piave (1882-1966)</i>, Roma, Viella, 2020.
Notes, additional materials	Any in-depth courses will be identified and agreed with the students
Repository	The teaching material will be available on the course Teams channel

Assessment	
Assessment methods	<p>Verification takes place through an oral interview.</p> <p>For attending students, there is the possibility of agreeing on a more specific and personalized articulation of the exam program, through a laboratory path focused on the presentation of written papers and presentations. The specific topics covered by the presentation or the paper will be agreed upon with the students during the course.</p>
Assessment criteria	<p>Knowledge and understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth understanding of the main methodological issues concerning the nexus between human activities and the bio-geo-chemical dynamics of nature • adequate knowledge of the historiographical debate in the field of social, agricultural, cultural and environmental history • ability to distinguish and critically articulate paradigms and interpretative categories <p>Applied knowledge and understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to understand and critically discuss the periodization of



	<p>contemporary Italy in relation to the changing relationships between ecosystems and human societies.</p> <p>Making judgments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequate understanding of the impact of Italian demographic development and decline, of the emergence and constitution of the urban-industrial society as a periodizing and constitutive phenomenon of the contemporary age, whose radical changes in the ways of incorporating natural resources into human activities have profoundly altered the environmental assets and the dynamics of socio-economic growth• Acquisition of a language appropriate to the paradigms, analytical categories and lexicon itself of environmental history. <p>Communication skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequate ability to present the contents of the course appropriately and using appropriate language from a scientific-disciplinary point of view. <p>Ability to learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequate ability to develop an autonomous learning method that can compose the critical thinking infrastructure
Final exam and grading criteria	The final mark is given out of thirty. The exam is considered passed when the grade is greater than or equal to 18. A self-assessment tool via questionnaire is provided during the course.
Further information	