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Scuola Superiore Meridionale – Universita degli Studi di Napoli Federico II

Course Objectives

I aim to introduce students to some of the basic aspects of the study of history. This course focuses on the period from the late 15th century, when the global integration of communities began to take shape. It considers developments which increasingly bound the fates of all peoples together, including the emergence of world trade networks, the growth of world religions, the formation of world empires, and the migrations of peoples across the continents. Through the thematic and chronological study of global history it is anticipated that students will gain a deeper understanding of the issues that affect their daily lives.

Content

You will obtain an overview of key developments in global history since the fifteenth century. You will also learn that history is not merely concerned with finding out what happened but also with trying to explain how and why things happened. You will, therefore, be introduced to some of the varying interpretations of historians who have written on the subject which you are studying. Where appropriate, you will also be introduced to some primary materials to show the kinds of evidence on which historians base their interpretations and explanations.

Skills

An important element of Stage I courses is to impart skills that a historian needs and that can also be used in other fields which require the assimilation, assessment and presentation of information. These skills include:

- The effective use of the library and information technology and the opportunity to develop and use information literacy competencies in learning contexts and assessments
- The ability to take notes from lectures and secondary sources
- The ability to reference work in accurate footnotes/endnotes and bibliographies
- The ability to present a reasoned argument, written in standard English and based upon evidence

Objectives for this Course

1. To present students with an historical overview of the sequence of commercial, cultural, environmental and political events that have brought the peoples of the world together since the 15th century;
2. To examine the nature of the encounters between peoples of different cultures over time;
3. To familiarise students with some of the principal concepts which determined the course of modern history such as imperialism, industrialisation, nationalism, democracy, communism, indigenous rights and globalisation;
4. To develop students' ability to discuss their ideas in a range of both written and oral forms;
5. To improve students ability to write an academically accredited piece of work.

Lecture Programme

Week 1: Introduction to the seminar and presentation of my own work.
Monday 2 November

Week 2: Colonisation and Decolonisation in Global History
Monday 9 November
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/historical-journal/article/islam-and-the-european-empires/5A7C1B9D5F60E57E1E6CD92849D0E5F1

Week 3: First World War in Global History
Monday 16 November

Week 4: Second World War in Global History
Monday 23 November

Week 5: Cold War in Global History
Monday 30 November

Week 6: The Clash of Civilizations in Global History
Monday 7 December
Week 7: Rivalries in Asia and the Rise of China in Global History

Monday 14 December