



Universidad
de Navarra

Contemporary History (Fcom)

Guía docente 2023-24

PRESENTACIÓN

Breve descripción: The course offers an introductory survey of the main dynamics that shaped the contemporary world. Its time framework starts around 1945 with the rise of the bipolar world divided into the West and the East. It follows with the Cold War, the decolonisation, the processes of globalisation and the fall of the Soviet Bloc. Contrary to predictions of some, the History did not end there and so the course continues with the events of the last three decades, when the Past blends with the Present.

By using different learning tools focused on content, interaction, critical thinking and problem solving, we are going to look into how the world changed on both national and international level as well as into the role the media played in these transformations. Although the main emphasis is going to be put on politics, we will not lose sight of the social and economic dimensions, for they are indispensable for a solid comprehension of the contemporary world.

- **Titulación:** Degrees in Journalism, Audiovisual Communication
- **Módulo/Materia:**
 - JOURNALISM
 - Módulo II: Entornos del Periodismo
 - Materia 3: Entorno histórico-cultural
 - AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION
 - Modulo II. Entornos de la Comunicación Audiovisual
 - Materia 1. Entorno Histórico y Sociocultural
- **ECTS:** 3
- **Curso, semestre:** 1st (First Term)
- **Carácter:** Compulsory
- **Profesorado:** Santiago de Navascués
- **Idioma:** Inglés
- **Aula, Horario:**
 - lunes de 10 a 12, Aula 10. Fcom

COMPETENCIAS

AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION DEGREE (COMPETENCES)

1. BASIC COMPETENCES

CB1 - Students should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the subject area based on a general secondary school education. They should have a general level that is well supported by advanced texts, but that also encompasses aspects that suggest knowledge of the leading edge of their field of study.

CB3 - Students should be able to gather and interpret relevant data (normally within their field of study) in order to make judgments that encompass consideration of social, scientific and ethical topics.

2. GENERAL COMPETENCES

CG1 - Accurately expressing knowledge and ideas in speech and writing in the field of audiovisual communication.



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CG2 - Understanding, analyzing and critically evaluating defining elements of human beings and contemporary society from anthropological, historical, cultural and social points of view.

CG3 - Understanding and valuing the impact of audiovisual communication on society, culture, history, economics, business, law, science, ethics and technology.

JOURNALISM DEGREE (COMPETENCES)

1. BASIC COMPETENCES

CB1 - Students should demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the subject area based on a general secondary school education. They should have a general level that is well supported by advanced texts, but that also encompasses aspects that suggest knowledge of the leading edge of their field of study.

CB3 - Students should be able to gather and interpret relevant data (normally within their field of study) in order to make judgments that encompass consideration of social, scientific and ethical topics.

2. GENERAL COMPETENCES

CG1 - Expressing thoughts and ideas in speech and writing in an accurate, orderly, creative fashion in order to make information available to society.

CG2 - Understanding, analyzing and critically evaluating the defining elements of human beings and contemporary society from anthropological, historical, cultural, political, social and economic points of view.

CG10 - Identifying the main forms of cultural, literary and artistic expression in Western culture from the beginning to the present day.

CG12 - Interpreting and valuing the historic evolution of contemporary world affairs and understanding the political, economic, social and cultural parameters that affect a good communicator's work.

3. SPECIFIC COMPETENCES

CE6 - Being familiar with the defining elements of modern society, specifically those pertaining to social, political and economic questions as they relate to current affairs.

CE8 - Defining and understanding the evolution of different contemporary journalistic forms and traditions in Spain, Europe and the world throughout history, as well the theories, concepts and schools of thought that address these forms and traditions.

PROGRAMA

1. Presentation
2. The Legacy of War
3. Cold War
4. The End of European Empires
5. The European integration
6. The Middle East
7. China since 1945



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8. The Post-Cold War Order

ACTIVIDADES FORMATIVAS

Attendance

Success in class requires regular attendance. Roll calls will be taken during each class session except on days when a task is due or a test is taken. Any student missing more than three class periods without an acceptable excuse will have her/his final grade reduced by one point.

History Interview and Essay

In this course, students are expected to conduct an interview with a distant relative and write an essay with that material. The interview will deal with the life and time of that person, and it will address relevant issues to Contemporary History: politics, ideology, social structures, cultural shifts, etc. After the interview is conducted, the students will write an essay on contemporary history to explore the personal story of that relative and its connections to key historical themes.

In-Class Test

In addition to the final examination, one class test counting 10% is scheduled at the middle of the semester. Students are required to take the test as scheduled. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Students are encouraged to make a tutoring appointment (at least once during the semester).

Final Exam

Students also are expected to take a final exam. The final exam counts 40%. Apart from the basic knowledge of the subject matter, in assessing the final examination the instructor will take into account the writing clarity, the precision of the vocabulary, and the relevance of the contents and arguments selected or developed by the student in her/his responses. Students who do not pass the final exam in December will have the opportunity to sit another exam in June.

- Attendance: 26h
- Evaluation: 4h
- Tutorials: 1h
- Student study hours: 44h

EVALUACIÓN

CONVOCATORIA ORDINARIA

Participation in Class: 10%



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History Interview and Essay: 40%

Midterm Exam: 10%

Final Exam: 40%

Midterm Exam date: Oct 16

Final Exam date: Dec 15

The exams will be as follows:

1. **Multiple choice questions** will represent a 50% of the final grade. You will have to answer to 100 questions (a, b, c, d). Bear in mind that **time will be limited to 20 minutes**.
2. **Long question answers** will represent 50% of the final grade. You will **choose between four given topics and answer only two**. Respondents will have to write detailed answers in response to open-ended questions (i.e. "Describe and compare the independence of India and South Africa"; "What was the Sino-Soviet split?"; "Describe the origins of the European Union", "What were the main factors that determined the origins of the Cold War?").

CONVOCATORIA EXTRAORDINARIA

For the June call, these are the main instructions:

1. 30% of the final grade corresponds to the grade obtained in the first semester.
2. 30% of the final grade corresponds to the writing of a historical research paper. It will be the same as the one written for the History Interview and Essay, but the topic can be changed. The same rules of length apply to this paper. Do write me to say what your topic is going to be and how you're going to write it.
3. 40% of the final grade will correspond to the June exam, which will have the same characteristics as that of December. A few days before I will send the optional questions to choose in the exam.

HORARIOS DE ATENCIÓN

Dr. Santiago de Navascués (sdenavascue@unav.es)

- Despacho 2170 Edificio Ismael Sánchez Bella
- Horario de tutoría: lunes de 12 a 14h

BIBLIOGRAFÍA

Course book

McMahon, Robert J. (2003) The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction. [Find it in the Library](#)



General Bibliography

- Gaddis, J.L., *The Cold War: A New History* (2007) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Bell, P.M.H., *The World since 1945: An International History* (2001) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Blanning, T.C.W. (ed.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern Europe* (1998) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Burrows, T. (ed.), *The History of the Modern World* (2012) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Cohn-Sherbok, D. & El-Alami, D.S., *The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Beginner's Guide* (2008) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Fenby, J., *The Penguin History of Modern China* (2009) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Hobsbawm, E., *The Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century, 1914-1991* (1996) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Judt, T., *Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945* (2005) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Lukacs, J., *A Short History of the Twentieth Century* (2013) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Mazower, M., *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century* (1998) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Stone, D. (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Postwar European History* (2014) [Find it in the Library](#)
- The Oxford History of Modern Europe* (2000) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Townson, D., *Dictionary of Contemporary History: 1945 to the Present* (1999) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Woodruff, W., *A Concise History of the Modern World: 1500 to the Present. A Guide to World Affairs* (2002) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Westad, Odd Arne, *The Cold War: a world history* (2017) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Young, J.W. & Kent, J., *International Relations since 1945: A Global History* (2013) [Find it in the Library](#)

Complementary Bibliography

- Atlas of Modern World History* (1989) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Best, A. (et al.), *International History of the Twentieth Century* (2004) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Fulbrook, M. (ed.), *Europe since 1945* (2009) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Gildea, R., *Barricades and Borders: Europe 1800-1914* (1991) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Lindemann, A. S., *A History of Modern Europe: From 1815 to the Present* (2013) [Find it in the Library](#)
- Merriman, J., *A History of Modern Europe: From the Renaissance to the Present* (2010) [Find it in the Library](#)



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Palmowski, J., *A Dictionary of Contemporary World History: from 1900 to the Present Day* (2008) [Find it in the Library](#)

Neff, S. C., *War and the Law of Nations: A General History* (2007) [Find it in the Library](#)

Pollard, S., *The Integration of the European Economy since 1815* (2006) [Find it in the Library](#)

The Penguin Book of Twentieth-Century Speeches (1999) [Find it in the Library](#)

Young, J.W., *The Longman Companion to the Cold War and Détente* (1993) [Find it in the Library](#)