



**Academic Year 2017-2018**

**Syllabus**

**Course The Global Cold War and its Aftermath**

**CFU 6**

**Prof. Silvio Pons**

**Dr. Angela Romano**

### **Course Description**

This course will cover the history of international relations since 1945 and present students with a vision of how the international order changed and evolved. The main focus will be on processes that marked the period in terms of global organisation and governance, and their interactions. The development of a bi-polar world order and the successive generation of a multilateral system comprising hegemonic powers with clashing ideals will be central. Yet other processes intersected with or openly challenged the Cold War dominant structure, and hence qualify its strength as all-out explanation and interpretative paradigm for the whole period. The course will thus devote particular attention to global processes – decolonisation and the emerging of the Third World, and the remoulding of the Western system to meet these challenges – as well as to key regional processes affecting the Cold War system at its hearth, that is European integration both East and West, and their entanglements.

The course will constantly highlight how these historical processes are connected with today's post-Cold War global order, its features, actors and dynamics. Hence the course aims at providing some of the factual grounding and conceptual apparatus necessary to better understand the contemporary world.

### **Teaching Method**

The course will combine lectures with seminar activities. The latter include in-class presentation and discussion of assigned readings, as well as hands-on work on primary sources (text analysis and contextualisation, critical assessment of information, etc). Students are therefore expected to attend every class, read the readings before class, and come prepared to participate in discussions. Each student will, in turn, present to the class two assigned readings, critically assessing content and arguments, and introducing related questions for the class discussion.

### **Schedule of Topics**

Topic 1	Origins and major themes of the Cold War
Topic 2	Communism: the Soviet Union, China, and international challenges
Topic 3	Processes of integration and cooperation in Europe
Topic 4	East, West, South and Globalization
Topic 5	Cold War endings and the problems of world governance

### **Textbook and Materials**

#### A) Textbooks

- Mark Mazower, *Governing the World: The History of an Idea*, Penguin Books, 2013.
- Melvin Leffler and Odd Arne Westad (eds.), *The Cambridge History of the Cold War, vol. 3 Endings*, Cambridge UP, 2010.
- Catherine Schenk, *International Economic Relations since 1945*, Abingdon : Routledge, 2011.

#### B) Further readings to be announced and made available for download

### **Assessment**

Requirements for the course include:

- 1) attendance and participation in class discussions (30%)
- 2) in-class presentations and discussion of assigned readings (60%)
- 3) final in-class discussion (10%)

### **Office hours**

TBA