



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

ID

VP03\_DIP\_CPS

## Visiting Professor Program Academic year 2019/2020

**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURES, POLITICS AND SOCIETY**

**TEACHING COMMITMENT: 20 hours**

### **COURSE TITLE**

History of public opinion (16th-21st centuries)

### **TEACHING PERIOD**

1st term

### **SCIENTIFIC AREA**

Modern history

### **LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH**

Italian

### **COURSE SUMMARY**

The press, censorship and public opinion are at the heart of a complex dynamic that is at the root of political modernity. In light of recent questions emerging in the historiographical debate, this course analyzes the interaction of these three phenomena on a European scale: critically reviewing the history of the book, focusing on the issue of the birth of freedom of the press within different confessional contexts, rereading the evolution of censorship by assessing its cultural and civil consequences. In light of the persistence of written communication in the Western world, the course questions the reasons for the prolonged absence of the press within the Arab-Muslim world. Finally, on the basis of these elements, the course provides some lines of direction for considering the complex and often contradictory process of forming public opinion between the 16th and 21st centuries.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Study and reflect on the tensions between different kinds of media (orality, manuscript, press, digital orality) in the formation of European public sphere.

- Provide a comparative, anthropological and political approach of Freedom of speech.
- Understand the historical density of dissemination, under the guise of news reporting, of false and often sensational, information.

### **TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES**

1. The Visiting Professor shall be available to students who wish to consult him on his/her field of expertise, and shall supervise students who will prepare a paper under his/her guidance.
2. Themes and titles will be decided during the course and approved by the teacher, who will be available to meet with students who desire bibliography or other counseling.

### **VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE**

The candidate has degrees in History, with a teaching experience relating to University courses on History, Political Sciences, and related topics. A strong investment in national and international research networks shall be highly appreciated, as well as an extensive fieldwork experience on history of public sphere and on reading and censorship in Early Modern Europe.

### **CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT**

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