

POLITICAL SCIENCE (A-K) 2020-2021

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Targets

The course aims to provide the basic conceptual tools for the knowledge, analysis and interpretation of political phenomena and contemporary political systems. In particular, the course is structured in three linked teaching units:

- the first relates to the understanding of the constitutive foundations of every political system, through the analysis of concepts and keywords of political theory and political science, and the deepening of some classical contributions such as Max Weber's interpretation of science and politics as a profession;
- the second relates to the study of some central topics of political science, through the analysis of the main institutions of representative democracy, the interpretation of political phenomena, the relationship between the actors in the formulation of public policies and in the policy making process;
- the third relates to the study of the European Union, with regard to its current political-institutional structure, and to the analysis of the global dimension of contemporary political phenomena, with particular attention to the evolution of the nation-state and international relations.

Other information

INFORMATION for ATTENDANTS: halfway through the course there is a compulsory intermediate test in written form (through multiple-choice questions, questions with semi-open and free answers, numerical exercises). During the course, some privileged witnesses will be invited who are able to stimulate the debate on some topics previously taught by the teacher.

It is possible to attend an in-depth seminar held by experts in the subject, whose mark (up to a maximum of 2 points) will be part of the overall evaluation of the course. Students attending a seminar can see the syllabus on the website where they will find all the relevant information (teachers, hours, topics, bibliography).

Website

<http://www.nicolapasini.it>

Prerequisites and exams:

The exam will take place in written form (through multiple-choice questions, questions with semi-open and free answers, numerical exercises). Students achieving a score equal to at least 27/30, can ask to take the oral test, on all the topics covered in the course, to improve the overall outcome of the exam. The supplementary oral exam will not necessarily lead to an improvement in the final evaluation.

For ATTENDING STUDENTS: compulsory intermediate test in written form (through multiple choice questions, questions with semi-open and free answers, numerical exercises) and a final test, always in written form, at the end of the course on the remaining part of the program.

Didactic unit: 1

Program

Concepts and keywords of political theory and political science. What is science? What is politics? Max Weber's lecture on science as a profession and on politics as a profession. Ethics of conviction and ethics of responsibility. The phenomenon of power.

The historical context: origin of the state between state of nature and political state, nation-state between evolution and transformation, rule of law and constitutions. Liberalism and democracy. Liberal democracies and democracies: definition, comparison, typologies, developments and transformation. Non-democratic regimes (authoritarianisms and totalitarianisms): definitions, comparison, typologies and empirical cases.

Reference material

1. M. Weber, *Science as a vocation - Politics as a vocation*.
2. D. Caramani (a cura di), *Scienza politica*, Egea Bocconi, Milano 2015 (II edition), Introduction, chapters 1-2-3.

Didactic unit: 2

Program

Didactic Unit 2 is divided into two parts (2a, 2b):

2a. Socio-economic and socio-political participation and representation:

- Participation and political representation between exit, voice and loyalty. Relationship between political supply and demand. Political culture and socio-political fractures. Trust, security and social capital. Political movements. Political participation: how (modality), why (determinants), when and where (explanation at the macro level), who (explanation at the micro level).
- Interest groups: analysis of the representation of organized interests in a multilevel perspective. Lobbying and focus on collective action by entrepreneurs and businesses: specific objectives in the political arena and in the market; the theory of *stakeholders* and *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)*. Trade unions between the logic of belonging and the logic of influence. Interaction models between actors.
- Political parties: definitions, origins and historical evolution, functions, organizational models, parties and democracy.
- Party systems: genealogy, morphology and dynamics of party systems. Evolution of the concepts of right and left in countries with a democratic tradition. Analysis of political cultures and the structuring of the party system: the Italian case in a comparative key.
- Elections, electors and electoral behaviour, electoral systems and formulas. The referenda.

2b. Institutional structure and policymaking:

- Parliaments, legislative assemblies and territorial representation: definitions, role, structure and functions. Power of a legislative assembly;
- Governments and bureaucracies: types of government, functioning, autonomy and political capacity. Presidential, parliamentary, semi-presidential systems; morphology of governments, constitutional models and party reality. Public administration systems: definitions, roles, functions, organizational models of bureaucracies; relationship between political and administrative classes in a complex society;
- Public policies and policy-making: what they are, public policy production models; types, phases and actors of policies. Conceptual models of policy making. International factors for domestic policy making.

Reference material

- 2a.** D. Caramani (a cura di), *Scienza politica*, Egea Bocconi, Milano 2015 (II edition), chapters 4-5-6-7-8;
- 2b.** D. Caramani (a cura di), *Scienza politica*, Egea Bocconi, Milano 2015 (II edition), chapters 9-10-11.

Didactic unit: 3

Program

European Union and global system:

- European Union: new political system, how? European integration. Vertical dimension (EU as a regulatory state) and horizontal (EU as a hyper-consensual system). European Union and democratic politics (which does not exist...);
- Globalization and the nation-state: ongoing debate between advanced, weak post-colonial and modernizing capitalist states.

Reference material

D. Caramani (a cura di), *Scienza politica*, Egea Bocconi, Milano 2015 (II edition), chapters 12-13.