

POLITICAL SYSTEM AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 2021-2022

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Short Course description

The aim of the course is the analysis of the political system, the public administration and the correlation between them. In particular, the course is divided into three parts:

- the first one focuses on the comprehension of the key concepts and terms of the political theory and the political science (i.e. State, constitution, democratic and not democratic regimes, liberalism, freedom, equality, social justice, rights of citizenship);
- the second part deals with the classical themes of the political science, such as the main institutions of the representative democracy and the implementation of the public policies;
- the last section analyses the public administrations in the liberal and democratic societies. It is specifically intended to examine the transformation of politicians/civil servants relationship in Italy and in Western Europe (spoils and merit systems) and the role of ethics in the public administration.

The course outline is structured in **three main units**:

Unit 1 focuses on the main concepts and keywords of political science; what political science is?; research methods employed in political science; the state; types of democracies; political participation and collective action.

Unit 2 is divided in two parts (2a and 2b):

The part 2a refers to political institutions and representations and focuses on interest groups; political parties and party systems; elections, electoral behaviour and electoral systems.

The part 2b refers to political institutions and policy-making and focuses on parliaments and governments; public policies and policy-making; the European Union; the welfare state.

Unit 3 is divided in two parts (3a and 3b):

The part 3a refers to public administration and focuses on the role of public administration in contemporary democracies; main functions, organization and structure of public administration; reforms in public administration; Italian public administration.

The part 3b analyses the relation between politics and bureaucracy and ethics in public administration.

Books:

1. D. CARAMANI (edited by), *Comparative Politics*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2020 (V Edition);
D. CARAMANI (a cura di), *Scienza politica*, Egea Bocconi, Milano 2022 (III edizione);
2. G. CAPANO, E. GUALMINI (a cura di), *Le pubbliche amministrazioni in Italia*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2011;
3. N. PASINI, *Lo spoil system fa male alla democrazia?*, Giappichelli Editore, Torino, 2014.

Possible changes for attendant students will be given by the teachers at the beginning of the course. Materials used during classes are part of the syllabus of attendant students.

For students who takes the exam only on one unit (3 cfu), the program is the following:

Main concepts of political science; what political science is?; political parties and party systems; elections, electoral behaviour and electoral systems; parliaments and governments; public policies and policy-making.

The role of public administration; main functions, organization and structure of public administration; relation between politics and public administration.

Written exams will be taken to ascertain students' knowledge of the topics of the course and whether they will be able to use this expertise by adopting the appropriate terminology learnt during the classes. Exams include multiple-choice questions, small exercises and open questions.

Written examination including:

- multiple choice questions
- simple exercises and open or semi-open questions

For attending students two written examinations could be taken: the first after the conclusions of units 1 and 2 and the second at the end of the course on unit 3.

Both examinations will include multiple choice, semi-open and open questions.

Attending students might also be involved in exercises during classes or at home to be completed individually or in group. These exercises will contribute to the final mark, even in substitution of written exams.

The final grade is on a scale of 30 and is given by the weighted mean of the marks obtained over the two main parts of the programme. The mark on modules 1 and 2 weights for two thirds, while the mark on module 3 weights for one third of the final mark.

Emergency phase

Teaching methods

If necessary due to the emergency, lectures will be held through the platform Microsoft Teams (as it happens for the Tuesday class). Students will be required to attend the classes in the scheduled time for the course. Lectures will be also registered and made available to students on MS Teams.

Syllabus and teaching materials

The syllabus of the course and teaching materials will not change.

Examination and evaluation criteria

If necessary due to the emergency, the exam will be taken in written form in remote through the platform exam.net following the modalities illustrated on the UNIMI web page. Even in remote the written exam will be structured in the same way of the exams taken in class and will include multiple-choice questions, short exercises, open and semi-open questions.

Evaluation criteria for the exams taken in remote will be the same of the exams taken in class.

For non-attending students exams could also be taken in oral form in remote using the MS Teams platform.