# Political Science

## Prof. Damiano Palano

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

***Course aims***

The course aims to provide the fundamental theoretical, methodological and conceptual tools of political science, in addition to an outline of the general framework of the history of the discipline and of the most significant fields of contemporary research. In the first part, the course focuses on the main concepts of political theory and on the discipline’s development sequences. In the second part the attention is directed to the types of power structures, with specific reference to the Modern State, contemporary regime types, the phases of the democratisation process.

***Intended learning outcomes***

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

At the end of the course, the students will be capable of:

* identifying and dating the types of power structures, the characteristics of the Modern State, the distinguishing features of contemporary regime types;
* being proficient in the use of the conceptual tools and the terminology of political science, particularly those related to the political system and its structure;
* Distinguishing and identifying the different schools in Political Science, especially in connection with the understanding of political phenomena, the definition and measurement of power, the dynamics of the nationalisation process, the conditions and sequences of the democratisation processes.

ability to apply knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be capable of:

* Applying the knowledge and models which they have acquired to political reality;
* Carrying out elementary empirical analyses of political processes, using the theoretical hypotheses and knowledge acquired during their studies;
* In-depth self-study of political topics.

***COURSE CONTENT***

first part

1. Nature and subject of the discipline
2. Elements of political theory

– Define politics

– Power and authority

– The dimensions of politics

Second part

1. The organisation of power

– Politics and territory

– The organisation of power by the State

– Origins and transformations of the State

1. Contemporary regime types

– Non-democratic regimes

– Democratic regimes: origin and developments

***READING LIST***

1. Lecture notes and material specified during lectures (available on the Blackboard platform).
2. D. Palano, *Animale politico. Introduzione allo studio dei fenomeni politici*, Scholé-Morcelliana, Brescia, 2023
3. D. Palano, *Politica. Un’introduzione*,Scholé-Morcelliana, Brescia, 2023 (in press).
4. P. Grilli di Cortona – O. Lanza – B. Pisciotta – L. Germano, *Capire la politica*, Utet Università, Turin, 2020 (third edition), Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.
5. One text selected from the following:
* G. Miglio, *Guerra, pace, diritto*, edited by D. Palano, Scholé-Morcelliana, Brescia, 2022.
* R. Niebuhr, *Natura umana e comunità politiche. Saggi sulle dinamiche e sugli enigmi dell’esistenza personale e sociale dell’uomo*, edited by L.G. Castellin, Morcelliana, Brescia, 2022.
* A. Campati, *La distanza democratica. Corpi intermedi e rappresentanza politica*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2022.
* D. Palano, *Populismo*, Bibliografica, Milan, 2017.
* D. Palano, *Bubble-democracy. La fine del pubblico e la nuova polarizzazione*, Scholé-Morcelliana, Brescia, 2020.

Further reading material will be specified during the course and made available on the Blackboard platform.

Students without course lecture notes must replace them with the following text:

* S. Bartolini, *Il politico. Teoria dell’azione politica nucleare*, Scholé, Morcelliana, Brescia, 2022.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists in frontal lectures, which may be complemented by in-depth seminars. The teaching method may be modified in accordance with the arrangements made by the University.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam consists in two oral tests, to be held on a single date. In the oral first test, students will be specifically assessed on the basis of their knowledge of the concepts and theoretical tools of Political Science, as detailed in the manual *Capire la politica* (Chapters from 4 to 11). On the other hand, in the second oral test, the assessment will be based on the knowledge of the fundamental concepts explained during lectures, in the volumes *Animale politico. Introduzione allo studio dei fenomeni politici* and *Politica. Un’introduzione*, as well as one of the texts selected by the student. In order to take the second oral test, students must have passed the first oral test. Each test consists in five questions, to which students must reply accurately. For the first oral test, students may be awarded **15 points out of 30.** For the second oral test, students may be awarded **15 points out of 30. Assessment criteria will specifically include:**

* knowledge of the topics covered during lectures or included in the exam programme;
* knowledge of conceptual tools used in political science research;
* knowledge of the parties involved in contemporary politics and the ability to apply acquired knowledge to real life;
* language proficiency;
* the ability to effectively organise content;
* the ability to identify the specific subject of the questions asked during the exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

As it is introductory, there are no knowledge prerequisites for students to attend the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer’s webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENGor on the Faculty notice board.