# Comparative History of Public Institutions

## Prof. Enrica Patrizia Neri, Prof. Cristina Bon

[Teaching syllabus borrowed from the Degree in Political sciences and international relations, including the course name *History of contemporary administrative systems*]

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

The course – which consists of two modules – will analyse the relationships between politics and public administration, from a compared historical perspective. In particular, it will examine some of the key elements of institutional and administrative development in unitary and federal government systems: constitutional principles, central organization, centre-periphery relationships and local government. The institutional and administrative model studied will be the Italian one and its main transformations. These will be covered in the first course module. The second module will offer an insight into contemporary administrative systems, focusing specifically on experiences in Britain and the United States.

*Knowledge and understanding*: at the end of the course, students will acquire the historical knowledge useful for understanding and comparing different contemporary western political-administrative systems (Europe - North America) and will know the main models and methods of managing administrative processes and how bureaucracies work from the nineteenth century to the second half of the twentieth century.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*: at the end of the course, students will be able to master the essential terminology of the bureaucratic-administrative sector, evaluate complex contemporary institutional and administrative systems and independently carry out on a comparative level a historical-institutional analysis of single problems related to center-periphery relations in unitary and federal systems, the management of local governments, the interaction between public administration and civil society, the system and decision-making processes.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1 *(Prof. Enrica Patrizia Neri)*

– The origin of Public Administration in Italy.

– From unification to the First World War.

– Fascism: institutions and administration.

– Republican Italy.

– Regionalism: cases and comparisons.

Module 2 *(Prof. Cristina Bon)*

– The comparative dimension in Public Administration

– Relations between the centre and the suburbs: the Administrative Models.

– The British administrative system.

– The American administrative system.

*– New Public Management*.

***READING LIST***

Students who will have the opportunity to regularly attend lectures can prepare the exam on the following programme:

Lecture notes and the following text:

G. Astuto, *L’amministrazione italiana. Dal centralismo napoleonico al federalismo amministrativo,* Carocci, Rome, 2009 (chapters. 3, 5, 7, 8).

Students who for any reason cannot regularly attend lectures can study the following programme:

G. Astuto, *L’amministrazione italiana. Dal centralismo napoleonico al federalismo amministrativo,* Carocci, Roma, 2009.

One text to be chosen from:

E. Gualmini, *L’amministrazione nelle democrazie contemporanee,* Laterza, Bari, last edition (original edition 2003).

L. Bobbio*, I governi locali nelle democrazie contemporanee*, Roma-Bari Laterza, last edition, (original edition 2015).

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes lectures by lecturers and possible meeting with by external guests. During the spring semester there will be a series of optional practical classes on a subject of relevant interest for the discipline. All information relating to guest speakers and practical clsses in the second semester will be made available on the Blackboard platform.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students’ learning will be verified by means of a written examination. The examination consists of six short open-ended questions: three concerning the first module and three about the second module of the course. For each correct answer, the lecturer will asign five scores maximum. In case of worthy examination, the lecturer could asign an honor.

The questions are designed to assess the knowledges acquired based on the expected learning outcomes with particular attention to abilities in referring to theoretical basis and case studies. The exam also evaluates students’ ability to express themselves accurately and confidently, to demonstrate their command of the subject’s specific terminology, as well as events on chronological order. The examination will take place before a Commission presided by the course tutor. The mark is expressed in thirtieths: the pass mark is 18/30. The maximum mark is 30/30: in addition to this mark the Examining Commission may decide to award *cum laude* when deserved.

Students attending the optional practical classes in the second semester will be able to take a self-assessment test on content of the practical classes and the test result will be taken into consideration for the overall assessment. More details on assessment methods for the practical classes will be provided on the Blackboard platform as soon as possible.

Students who will have the opportunity to regularly attend lectures may take a written test at the end of each module to assess their level of knowledge on the programme indicated in the reading list section.

On completion of the abovementioned course, there may be a written test, exclusively for attending students, so they may verify the level of knowledge acquired during the course. In relation to the second module there will be group research activities, the assessment of such activities will contribute towards determining the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In order to efficiently attend the course, students should have basic knowledge in the fields of History of Political Institutions, Contemporary History and Public Law.

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