**Political science**

Prof. Martino Mazzoleni

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

This is an introductory course to the analysis of political phenomena. It aims to illustrate the fundamental concepts and processes of politics, with examples drawn from country-specific actors, issues, and dynamics that are designed to illustrate the basic ideas. It addresses both theoretical and empirical issues on a comparative basis, mainly but not exclusively focusing on Europe.

The course aims to provide students with the basic knowledge about concepts, models and theories for the analysis of contemporary politics. On completion of this course, students should achieve the following outcomes:

* With reference to knowledge and understanding, they will be able to grasp the functioning of institutions in the established democracies and to recognize the main developments and issues of contemporary democratic competition.
* As for applying this knowledge and understanding, students will be able to use the concepts and analytical tools, illustrated in the course, to carry out a basic analysis of political systems.

***COURSE CONTENT***

First term: Politics, regimes, and governments

*What is politics?*

* basic political concepts
* the state
* political systems, processes, and functions

*Political regimes*

* authoritarian regimes
* democracy and democratization

*Democratic governments and institutions*

* systems of government
* legislatures
* executives and bureaucracies
* federalism and local government

Second term: Political participation

* political participation
* political parties
* electoral systems
* referendums
* voting behaviour
* interest groups and lobbying
* public policy and policymaking

***READING LIST[[1]](#footnote-1)***

J. McCormick (2022). Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction (12th Edition). Bloomsbury.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Active participation is strongly encouraged during the lectures: students are expected to participate constructively with comments and questions. The presentations (slides) of the lectures will be available through the online platform Blackboard.

In case the evolution of Covid-19 pandemic will not allow teaching in presence, online lectures and distance learning will be guaranteed. Channels and modalities will be communicated in due time to students.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

There will be a written exam with multiple-choice questions (up to 20% if the grade; 1 point for each correct answer) and open-ended questions, whose assessment will centre on: the accuracy of knowledge shown by students; the congruence of their answers with the open-ended questions; and their capacity to critically use the concepts illustrated in the course and in the textbook in order to provide original answers.

For attending students, the exam may be divided into a mid-term session and a final one.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

This is an introductory course and, hence, no prerequisite is necessary.

All news and updating will be made available on Blackboard. Students are kindly invited to register on the platform and consult it on a regular basis. Further information and office hours can be found on the lecturer's webpage.

**Lab on policies for sustainability**

Prof. Marco Ricchetti

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

* Understanding the principles of sustainability and circular economy business model and the impact of the sustainability paradigm shift
* Understanding the role of business enterprises' voluntary commitments, NGOs' pressure and market regulation policies in the sustainability journey
* Getting to know key policy frameworks for sustainability
* Grasping current and future development and trends in fashion and food business sustainability.

***LAB CONTENT***

* Principles of and approaches to sustainability
* The circular economy business model
* Development of the sustainability principles and policies: from the social costs of business enterprises to the triple bottom line
* Why now? The upspring of sustainability concerns in the fashion and food industry in the last decade,
* The UN Agenda 2030,
* The ILO labour standards and conventions
* Voluntary commitments to sustainability: the Fashion Pact, main certification standards and labels
* The EU Green Deal and the European strategy for a sustainable and circular textile
* Case studies on leading companies in the sustainability journey: fashion and food industries.

***READING LIST***

Supporting material suggested during the lab.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The lectures will include an introduction to the topic or the case study followed by assignments (workgroup) and presentations.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

30% quality and intensity of interaction; 60% evaluation of in class assignments.

1. I testi indicati nella bibliografia sono acquistabili presso le librerie di Ateneo; è possibile acquistarli anche presso altri rivenditori. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)