# Political Geography

## Prof. Guido Lucarno

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

Knowledge and understanding. The course aims to provide students with knowledge on the basic concepts and study tools of Political Geography to enable the student to understand the problems of the contemporary world and embark on a professional career in training, publishing, journalism and the interpretation and planning of the local area in relation to the anthropic activities that take place there.

Applying knowledge and understanding. At the end of the course, students will be able to: recognise the main geographical and political forms of aggregation in relation to peoples and territories; examine and analyse the administrative forms of complex socio-political units; correlate the developmental phases of states and territories run by socio-political bodies with the historical development of people and their territories; and explain their complex interactions with other geographical-political units on the planet.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The 30-hour course (plus 9 hours of practice exercises, is split into the following parts:

*General part*

1. Principles of Political Geography.

2. State and nation.

3. Frontiers and borders, the traits of sovereign political units.

4. Territorial waters.

5. Population, language and religion as geopolitical factors.

*Special subject*

In-depth study: the recent geopolitical development of some of the world states with monographs and case studies.

***READING LIST***

*General part*

M.I. Glassner, *Manuale di Geografia Politica.* *Volume I. Geografia e Geopolitica dello Stato,* F. Angeli, Milan, 2002.

M.I. Glassner, *Manuale di Geografia Politica.* *Volume II. Geografia delle relazioni tra gli Stati,* F. Angeli, Milan, 2002.

Various authors., *I confini di un Paese*, Milan, Mediterra, 2016.

The lecturer will indicate in class which parts of the above texts to prepare for the exam and how to approach them effectively, publishing full details on Blackboard at the end of the course. The texts will be supplemented with course packs and Blackboard materials that form an integral part of the syllabus and the reading list. Students are advised to use a good scholastic atlas in their studies.

*Special subject*

The handouts and materials available on Blackboard.

Further information on the reading list will be provided during the lectures.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The general part will be delivered by means of frontal lectures with slideshows and documentary material. The workshop will focus on contemporary and historical case studies, comparing their developmental features with the theoretical models covered in the general part.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be examined by means of an oral exam on the topics on the syllabus. Students will be assessed on their level of general knowledge of the subject, their ability to analyse and interpret issues and case studies inherent to the subject, including in relation to other cases covered in lectures, the ability to recognise cause and effect relationships between various geopolitical phenomena, the ability to use appropriate language and the specific vocabulary of the subject.

Non-attending students (who will not have lecture notes): in addition to the above, to sit the exam, non-attending students must first prepare a short written assignment on a topic agreed with the lecturer following the guidelines on Blackboard. This will be assessed in the exam, when students will also deliver a brief presentation on it.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are expected to have a basic understanding of worldwide regional geography and contemporary history, as provided on standard secondary school syllabi.

The course is aimed at students studying for both first-level and second-level degrees and can be retaken.

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.