# Political Parties and Pressure Groups

## Prof. Silvio Cotellessa

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

Taking a politological perspective, the course analyses the historical and political development of political figures and forms of political participation, from the founding configurations of the political parties to the current crisis of democratic representation.

*Knowledge and understanding*

The course aims to provide students with the main tools for learning about topics related to political participation, social movements, the representation of interests and lobbying, with particular regard to Italy and the wider political context on both a European and international level.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to use the main tools of politological analysis in order to address, including with the aid of case studies, the most relevant issues in the debate on the role of political parties and pressure groups in studies on the developments of contemporary democracies.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Political participation: main topics and issues.

– The origins and transformation of political parties.

– Political parties, pressure groups and social movements.

– The dynamics of lobbying in Italy and the European Union.

***READING LIST***

*For attending students:*

1. Lecture notes and material provided in class.

*Non-attending students* must study the following texts in-depth:

1. D. Della Porta, *I partiti politici,* Il Mulino, 2015.

2. L. Mattina, *I gruppi d’interesse,* Il Mulino, 2010.

3. A. Pritoni, *Lobby d’Italia. Il sistema degli interessi tra Prima e Seconda Repubblica,* Carocci, 2018.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures in class. Attending students will have the opportunity to make PowerPoint presentations at the end of the course on the main topics studied.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Attending students will have the option of sitting the examination during two tests, the first of which at the end of the course, exactly during the period set aside in the Faculty calendar for mid-term tests, and will consist of a written test with open questions on the topics discussed in class. For non-attending students (and for attending students who do not or do not pass the intermediate written test) the examination will take place in a single oral test.

The mark will be out of thirty, students will be assessed on their level of knowledge and understanding of course topics, as well as their ability to present them, also using terminology relevant to political analysis.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Prerequisites include knowledge of the basics of political science.

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.