# Political Science

## Prof. Damiano Palano

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

***Course aims***

The course aims to provide basic theoretical, methodological and conceptual tools of political science, as well as to outline the history of the discipline and the most relevant trends of contemporary research. The first part the course focuses on main concepts of political theory and on developmental stages of the discipline. The second part focuses on forms of power organization, taking into consideration modern state, contemporary forms of regime and the stages of the democratization process.

***Intended learning outcomes***

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* identify and place in time forms of organization of power, characteristics of the modern state, distinctive elements of contemporary forms of regime;
* appropriately use conceptual tools and the terminology of political science, in particular in relation to the political system and its units;
* distinguish and identify different political schools, especially in relation to the concept of political phenomena, power definition and its measurement, dynamics of the process of nationalization, conditions and sequences of democratization processes.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* apply the concepts and models learned to political reality;
* perform elementary empirical analysis of political processes using the theoretical hypotheses and knowledge learned during the course;
* navigate autonomously in the in-depth study of political issues.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Part 1

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

– Defining politics

– Power and authority

– The dimensions of politics

Part 2

1. The organisation of power

– Policy and territory.

– State organisation of power.

– Origins of and transformations to the state.

2. Forms of contemporary regime

– Non-democratic regimes.

– Democratic regimes: origins and growths.

***READING LIST***

1. Lecture notes and material indicated 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 corso di stampa).
4. P. Grilli di Cortona – O. Lanza – B. Pisciotta – L. Germano, *Capire la politica*, Utet Università, Torino, 2020 (third edition), chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.
5. One of the following textbooks:

* 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, Milano, 2022.
* D. Palano, *Populismo*, Bibliografica, Milan, 2017.
* D. Palano, *Bubble-democracy. La fine del pubblico e la nuova polarizzazione*, Scholé-Morcelliana, Brescia, 2020.

Further recommended reading will be indicated during the course and made available on the Blackboard platform.

Students not having the course notes are requested to replace them with the following textbook:

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

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is taught through lectures which may be accompanied by in-depth study seminars. The teaching methods may undergo changes in line with the University provisions.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students are assessed through a written and an oral test to be taken in a single session.

In the first test (written), students will be assessed particularly on their knowledge of concepts and theoretical instruments of political science concepts, as they are presented in the textbook “Capire la politica” (chapters from 4 to 11). In the second test (oral), students will instead be assessed on the fundamental concepts presented in lectures and in the supporting materials indicated in the books Animale politico. Introduzione allo studio dei fenomeni politici e Politica. Un’introduzione, and in the textbooks of students’ choice. In order to be eligible for the second test of the examination, students must pass the first test. Each of the two tests consists of 5 questions, which all require a clear answer. In the first test students can obtain 15 points out of 30. In the second test students can obtain 15 points out of 30. Among the criteria that determine the final mark, particular consideration will be given to:

– knowledge of topics covered during or included in the examination study programme;

– knowledge of conceptual tools for politological research;

– knowledge of players from contemporary;

– students’ ability to apply concepts to reality;

– students’ command of language and ability to efficiently organise content;

– the ability to identify the specific subject of these questions posed during the examination.

***NOTES AND prerequisitES***

Prerequisites

As it is an introductory course, there are no content-related prerequisites to attend the course.

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.