# History of Political Thought

## Prof. Silvio Cotellessa

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

The course aims to provide students with interpretive tools to acquire the basic features of the history of political thought, starting from the original thought formulations dating back to classical Greek political thinkers until modern age reflections. Thus, the course will focus on the main works of political philosophy concerning the nature of political organizations, both in the internal perspective of the individual state units, and in that of international relations.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to know and understand the main themes and authors of political thought in the framework of the stages that have marked the development of political thought, starting from the polis of ancient Greece to the formation of modern State.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will acquire the tools for reading political works and historical-political studies, also and above all, in order to interpret e transformations of political systems of the contemporary era.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– From the establishment of the *polis* to the formation of the Hellenic Principality.

– From Stoicism to the Fathers of the Church.

– From Middle Ages universalism to the emergence of territorial States.

– Doctrines of the Reason of State and the birth of the European State system.

– Political thought in the revolutionary era, from constitutionalism to liberalism.

– At the origins of contemporary democracy between Police State and Constitutional State.

At the beginning of the course, a detailed list of authors and topics that will be studied in depth will be provided.

***READING LIST***

Notes and reading list material indicated in class.

C. Galli, *Manuale di storia del pensiero politico*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2011 (from chapter I to chapter XII).

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course includes lectures in the class and additional seminars.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Attending students will have the option of doing the examination in two sittings, the first one at the end of the course, exactly during the period set aside on the Faculty calendar for mid-term tests. It will consist of a written test with open-ended questions on writers from the textbook which were not discussed in-depth during lectures. The second test will be a oral test and will be on writers explored during lectures.

For students who do not take or do not pass the intermediate written test the examination will be 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, their ability to present them, also while employing relevant terminology with regard to the historical setting.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Prerequisites include basic knowledge of ancient and modern history, as well as the main notions 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.