

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	Comparative Politics
Course code	27209
Scientific sector	SPS/04
Degree	Bachelor in Economics and Social Sciences
Semester and academic year	1 semester a.y. 2020/2021
Year	1st year
Credits	8
Modular	No
Total lecturing hours	48
Total lab hours	--
Total exercise hours	--
Attendance	recommended, but not required
Prerequisites	none
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-social-sciences/
Specific educational objectives	<p>This is a mandatory course of the PPE, belonging to the disciplinary sector of Political Science. It provides a general overview of the main theories, methods, and topics in Comparative Politics and first insights into the professional practice of empirical political research. Students will learn to (a) make sense of key political concepts and debates, and (b) analyse political institutions, political behaviour, and political outcomes around the world.</p>
Lecturer	<p>Paolo Chiocchetti Office E310 E-mail Paolo.Chiocchetti@unibz.it Lecturer's page https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/44686-paolo-chiocchetti</p>
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SPS/04
Teaching language	English
Office hours	<p>24 hours Cockpit – students' zone – individual timetable Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?sourceId=unibz&department=26&degree=13141%2C13182</p>
Lecturing assistant	--
Teaching assistant	--

<p>List of topics covered</p>	<p><u>Introduction</u>: presentation of the course; the nature of politics; the discipline of Comparative Politics. <u>Comparative political institutions</u>: types of polities and regimes; authoritarian regimes; theories of democracy; democratic regimes; electoral systems; party systems; legislatures; executives; bureaucracies; judiciaries; local governments; the EU; selected political systems (US, Italy, Austria); social and economic institutions. <u>Comparative political behaviour</u>: ideas and attitudes; participation and mobilization; representation. <u>Comparative political outcomes</u>: public policy; political change. <u>Conclusion</u>: understanding research texts; applying concepts and methods; summary of the course.</p>
<p>Teaching format</p>	<p>Frontal lectures + seminar discussions, practical exercises</p>
<p>Learning outcomes</p>	<p>After an adequate effort devoted to the attendance of the lectures (not required), individual study of the required readings, and personal reflection, students will be able to:</p> <p><u>Knowledge and understanding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recall and explain key concepts, theories, debates, and methods in Comparative Politics; describe and classify selected political systems around the world; <p><u>Applying knowledge and understanding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify the goals, methodology, and limitations of original research articles; apply concepts and methods of political research to real-world cases; <p><u>Making judgments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> form and justify an own opinion on key political questions (nature of politics; models and quality of democracy; institutional design; political participation and representation; public policy-making); <p><u>Communication skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicate information and opinions precisely, in the technical language of Comparative Politics, and according to appropriate academic standards; <p><u>Learning skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse, synthesize, and critically evaluate academic texts (textbooks, original research articles).
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>The course will be assessed through a two-hour written final exam. The exam will consist of seven questions on the content of the course, for a total of 30 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> five factual questions with a one-line answer (example Q: What system of government is France? A: Semi-presidential republic) – 10 points;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ one analytical question with a eight-line answer (example Q: Briefly discuss the advantages and disadvantages of proportional representation) – 10 points; ▪ the following analytical question with a eight-line answer: Briefly outline the main features of the political system of a country of your choice – 10 points. <p>The assessment mode is the same for attending and non-attending students.</p>
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	The exam will be assessed on the basis of the students' ability to recall and apply the content of their readings, express themselves in a precise and appropriate manner, and critically assess political phenomena.

Required readings	<p>Students need to read and reflect on the following twelve required readings (in total about 910 pages):</p> <p><u>One textbook:</u></p> <p>1) Caramani, Daniele (ed.) (2020). <i>Comparative politics (5th ed.)</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 664 pp.</p> <p><u>One textbook chapter:</u></p> <p>2) Heywood, Andrew (2013). '1. What is politics?', in: id. <i>Politics (4th ed)</i>. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 1-26. 26 pp.</p> <p><u>Nine original research texts:</u></p> <p>3) Munck, Geraldo and Richard Snyder (2007). 'Debating the direction of comparative politics', <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 40(1): 5–31. 27 pp.</p> <p>4) Anckar, Carsten and Cecilia Fredriksson (2018). 'Classifying political regimes 1800–2016: a typology and a new dataset', <i>European Political Science</i> 18: 84–96. 13 pp.</p> <p>5) Coppedge, Michael et al. (2020). '2. Conceptual scheme', in: id. <i>Varieties of democracy</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 27–42. 16 pp.</p> <p>6) Norris, Pippa (1997). 'Choosing electoral systems: proportional, majoritarian and mixed systems', <i>International Political Science Review</i> 18(3): 297–312. 16 pp.</p> <p>7) Vampa, Davide and Matthias Scantamburlo (2020). 'The Alpine region and political change: lessons from Bavaria and South Tyrol (1946–2018)', <i>Regional & Federal Studies</i>, advance online publication. 23 pp.</p> <p>8) Lowndes, Vivien (2020). 'How are political institutions gendered?', <i>Political Studies</i> 68(3): 543 –564. 22 pp.</p> <p>9) Taylor-Goody, Peter et al. (2019). 'Moral economies of the welfare state: a qualitative comparative study', <i>Acta Sociologica</i> 62(2): 119–134. 16 pp.</p> <p>10) Arzheimer, Kai (2017). 'Explaining electoral support for the radical right', in Jens Rydgren (ed). <i>The Oxford</i></p>
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	<p><i>handbook of the radical right</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 29 pp.</p> <p>11) Allinson, Jamie (2015). 'Class forces, transition and the Arab uprisings: a comparison of Tunisia, Egypt and Syria', <i>Democratization</i> 22(2): 394–314. 22 pp.</p> <p><u>One single-country overview:</u></p> <p>12) a book chapter on the political system of a country of your choice, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cotta, Maurizio and Luca Verzichelli (2016). '2. Il sistema politico italiano: le sfide di lungo periodo' in: id. <i>Il sistema politico italiano (3rd ed.)</i>. Bologna: il Mulino, 31–60. ▪ Helms, Ludger and David M. Wineroither (2017). 'Einleitung: Austria sui generis? Der Vergleich als Königsweg der Demokratieforschung', in id. (eds). <i>Die Österreichische Demokratie im Vergleich</i>. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 15–40. 26 pp. ▪ Ginsberg, Benjamin et al. (2019). '2. The founding and the constitution', in id. <i>We the people: an introduction to American Politics (12th ed)</i>. New York: W.W. Norton, 40–75. 36 pp.
<p>Supplementary readings</p>	<p><u>Optional suggestions</u> if you wish to explore more in-depth the political system of key countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cotta, Maurizio and Luca Verzichelli (2016). <i>Il sistema politico italiano (3rd ed.)</i>. Bologna: il Mulino, 294 pp. ▪ Helms, Ludger and David M. Wineroither (eds) (2017). <i>Die Österreichische Demokratie im Vergleich</i>. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 15–40. 548 pp. ▪ Griffiths, Simon and Robert Leach (2018). <i>British Politics (3rd ed.)</i>. London: Palgrave. 536 pp. ▪ Schmidt, Manfred G. (2016). <i>Das politische System Deutschlands: Institutionen, Willensbildung und Politikfelder (3rd ed.)</i>. München: C.H.Beck. 544 pp. ▪ Cole, Alistair (2017). <i>French politics and society (3rd ed)</i>. London: Routledge. 342 pp. ▪ Hix, Simon and Bjørn Høyland (2011). <i>The political system of the European Union (3rd ed)</i>. London: Palgrave Macmillan. 417 pp. ▪ Ginsberg, Benjamin et al. (2019). <i>We the people: an introduction to American Politics (12th ed)</i>. New York: W.W. Norton. 901 pp- ▪ Joseph, William A. (ed) (2019). <i>Politics in China: an introduction (3rd ed.)</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 632 pp. ▪ Morini, Mara (2020). <i>La Russia di Putin</i>. Bologna: il Mulino. 216 pp. ▪ Mahler, Gregory (2016). <i>Politics and government in Israel (3rd ed)</i>. London: Rowman & Littlefield. 496 pp.