

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. 2023/2024
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	Course Offering - enrolled before 2023 / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (unibz.it)

Specific educational objectives	<p>The course is mandatory for the PPE and it belongs to the disciplinary sector of Political Science. The course provides an overview of the main concepts; theories, methods, and topics of Comparative Politics together with some first insights into the academic and professional practice of political research.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to actively take part to the classes by discussing and critically analyzing the studied subjects. This continuous exercise will provide the students with the tool and the needed knowledge to professionally discuss and analyze phenomena concerning political institutions, behaviors and outcomes.</p>
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Lecturer	Benedetta Carlotti Office 5.23 E-mail benedetta.carlotti@unibz.it Lecturer's page Benedetta Carlotti / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (unibz.it)
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SPS/04
Teaching language	English
Office hours	24 hours Cockpit – students' zone – individual timetable Webpage: Timetables / Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (unibz.it)
Lecturing assistant	--
Teaching assistant	--

<p>List of topics covered</p>	<p>The course will cover the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <u>What is comparative politics and how to study it:</u> this first part introduces the course. It is dedicated to explaining the relevance of the discipline together with the main approaches in comparative politics and the core methods used. · <u>Lessons from the history and beyond:</u> this part of the course will be dedicated to understanding the origin of the nation-state, the type of polities and regimes, focusing on democracies (meaning and types of democracy), and authoritarian states. · <u>Political structures and institutions:</u> this part of the course provides notions on legislatures, governments, and bureaucracies, constitutional rights and judicial power, elections, and referenda with a focus on the multilevel structure of the European Union. · <u>Who is in there and how it works:</u> this part of the course is dedicated to understanding parties and party systems but also interest groups, social movements, and other core actors of politics. · <u>Culture, communication, and participation:</u> ideas, attitudes, political participation, and communication (with a special focus on populism and Euroscepticism). · <u>Comparative political outcomes:</u> public policies and political change. · <u>Course summary:</u> refresh all the core “take-aways” of the course, focusing on understanding research texts, their structure, and methods. During the course summary part, students will engage in an exam simulation (either written or oral). <p>The various course sections will be structured to provide the students with the basic discipline knowledge alongside some aspects of contemporary political phenomena (e.g.: the effects of the crises, political elections and so on)</p>
<p>Teaching format</p>	<p>Frontal lectures + seminar discussions, practical exercises and group work.</p>

<p>Learning outcomes</p>	<p>Attending the lectures is not mandatory. However, lectures' attendance coupled with individual study and personal reflection will allow you to know and understand the key concepts, theories, and methods of comparative politics. You will be able to analyze, describe and classify political systems. Furthermore, the course is intended to provide you with a clear understanding of the core methods of political research while you will be able to critically analyze original academic articles. Thanks to the course, you will be able to constructively discuss and judge political questions also concerning contemporary political phenomena (e.g.: populism and Euroscepticism).</p> <p>The course will also allow you to learn and professionally use the specific technical language of comparative politics while providing you with all the instruments to analyze, summarize and evaluate academic text (with a specific focus on original research articles).</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>Please note that even if course attendance is not mandatory, it will determine different exam modalities. Indeed, the exam modalities are to be intended as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Attending students</u>: the exam will be divided in two parts. Please note that you will be judged upon two assignments structured as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <u>Group work</u>: you will have the chance to produce a group research work that might take different shapes (e.g.: poster to be presented and showed to the classroom, short audiovisual material, traditional presentation). The work will concern an issue of your choice to be picked up from the course's program. You will be given all the needed information and scientific material during the course. o <u>Final exam</u>: for attending students the exam will consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 quick answer questions (short reply) ▪ 2 analytical questions (long reply maximum 15 lines). <p>Please mind the fact that to obtain your final grade you will have to take part to both the activities listed above. Each activity will be judged following the criteria listed below. The final grade will consist of the average between the two activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Non-attending students</u>: for those of you who will not attend the lectures you will be judge according to the results obtained via a written exam. The written exam will consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 20 quick answer questions (0.5 points each) o 4 Analytical questions with a maximum of 8 lines answer (2.5 points each) o 2 Analytical questions with a maximum of 15 lines answer (5 points each)

	<p>Please note that further information concerning the exam modality and schedule will be provided to you during the first lectures of the course.</p>
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	The evaluation will be based on your ability to recall and apply the content of the reading. Attention will be given to your ability to express yourself in a precise and appropriate fashion and to your critical approach to the discipline (i.e.: critical reasoning of the studied political concepts and Phenomena).
Required readings	<p>You will have the following required readings. Please note that all the texts will be provided to you during the course. There are added optional readings indicated below and will eventually be provided during the classes. Please note that all the information concerning the distribution of the arguments and classes' calendar will be provided during the course.</p> <p><u>The textbook:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caramani, Daniele (ed.) (2020). <i>Comparative politics (5th ed.)</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 664 pp. <p><u>Original research and book chapters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sartori, G. (1970). Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics. <i>The American Political Science Review</i>, 64(4), 1033–1053. doi:10.2307/1958356 • Bermeo, N. (2016) 'On Democratic Backsliding', <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, 27 (1), 5–19. • Mair, P. (2013). "Popular Democracy and the European Union Polity", in, <i>Ruling the void: The hollowing of Western democracy</i>. Verso Trade. • Mudde C., Kaltwasser C. R. , <i>Populism: A Very Short Introduction</i>, Oxford University Press, capp. 1, 2, • Leconte, Cécile. 2015. From Pathology to Mainstream Phenomenon: Reviewing the Euroscepticism Debate in Research and Theory. <i>International Political Science Review</i> 36 (3): 250–263. https://doi.org/10.1177/0192512115576236.
Supplementary readings	Supplementary readings will be decided and provided during the course and will be made available to all the students through the dedicated pages of the course.