## Syllabus
### Course description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>POLITICAL SCIENCE 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course code</td>
<td>27039</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific sector</td>
<td>SPS/04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>Bachelor in Economics and Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester and academic year</td>
<td>2nd semester 2016/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modular</td>
<td>No</td>
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| Total lecturing hours | 48                                                      |
| Total lab hours       | -                                                       |
| Total exercise hours  | -                                                       |

**Attendance**

recommended, but not required

**Prerequisites**

not foreseen

**Course page**

http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/progs/bacs/economics_social/courses/default.html

**Specific educational objectives**

This is a mandatory course of the PPE, belonging to the disciplinary sector of Political Science. The focus is mainly theoretical for the course is designed, as any standard Political Theory course, to give a general overview of a system of concepts and practices, and does not aim to offer specific professional skills.

As to the educational objectives, students who take this course will be able to make sense of, and give an account of, the complexities of politics, in particular of the concepts involved in its discourse and practices. Democracy, citizenship and rights are three key areas of concern for Political Theory: students will be able to draw normative distinctions and argue a case for different types of democratic rule.

**Lecturer**

Roberto Farneti
Office SER E202
### Scientific sector of the lecturer
SPS/04

### Teaching language
Italian

### Office hours
24 please refer to the lecturer’s web page

### Lecturing assistant
-

### Teaching assistant
-

### Office hours
-

### List of topics covered
The course addresses the basics of Political Theory, its concepts and concerns, and is articulated in 3 blocks. The first couple of lectures establish the overall goals for our exploration, they describe the major analytical categories and define the central tenets. In lectures 2 through 12 students will rehearse some key notions for the study of political theory, such as authority (Lecture 2), nation (Lecture 3), war (Lecture 4), democracy (Lecture 5), liberty (Lecture 6), toleration (Lecture 7), equality (Lecture 8), multiculturalism (Lecture 9), citizenship (Lecture 10), global justice (Lecture 11), human rights (Lecture 12). The next 5 lectures (13—17) are dedicated to a number of case studies: how people address sensitive issues, what are the main rhetorical strategies, political philosophies and general common sense presuppositions involved in debates concerning multicultural rights and immigration. This part will help students understand how ideological diversity and the persistence of treasured prejudices shape our ideas and concerns. Lectures (18—23) will seek to explain how we have come to employ the ideologies and concepts at work in the ways we address and discuss the topics illustrated in the earlier section. Our genealogy goes backward and seeks to uncover the original clues that still operate in current ways of thinking. From Marx all the way to Machiavelli we will give an account of the principal political philosophies that shape our understanding of politics. In Lecture 24 we shall draw some conclusions and discuss a little further the practical implications of political theories.

### Teaching format
Frontal lectures, using powerpoints

### Learning outcomes
The course introduces the basics of Political Theory, one of the three main subfields that together make up the general field of Political Science (Political Theory, Comparative Politics, and the Theory of International Relations). Students are expected to master the specific language and methods of Political Theory and to distinguish political systems on the basis of their ability to adapt to normative
standards like justice and democracy.

**Knowledge and understanding:**
The objective of the course is to illustrate the historical developments that brought about modern democracies, and to examine the theories and the institutional mechanisms that underscored the processes of democratization. The knowledge provided by the course is knowledge of the basic concepts of the discipline, like State, Democracy, Justice and Equality. Students are expected to understand the process of democratization in its historical evolution and trends.

**Applying knowledge and understanding:**
Ability to draw normative distinctions between political systems (like the one between a presidential regime and a dictatorship).
Ability to see how the concepts we currently employ when we talk about politics resonate with pre-existing ideas that emerged at a given time in history.
Students will be expected to make judgments based on normative standards (good and bad, democracy and dictatorship, etc.). They will be familiar with the historical processes that brought about the key normative concepts that we normally use in making sense of politics.
The course will definitely help improve the students’ communication skills. It is the topic itself (political theory) that demands the ability to make informed and thoughtful statements on sensitive political issues.

The course takes into account cutting edge teaching and learning techniques (as part of the instructor’s commitment to adapt social networks to the work in the classroom: see Baroncelli, Farneti, Horga, Vanhoonacker (eds.), Teaching and Learning the EU, Springer 2014). It uses case studies to better illustrate the concepts involved.

**Assessment**
Assessment is based on a two-hour Final Examination (that adds up to 100% of the grade) consisting in three short written texts where students are expected to demonstrate that the basic learning outcomes are achieved. The exam consists in a choice of three out of five questions: question one is mandatory. Students have to choose two more questions. Bibliography and footnotes are not required, but please refer to the literature listed in the syllabus. Sample question: “Discuss in outline format (short sentences, to the point, without extraneous detail) the distinction between the descriptive aspects of citizenship (lecture 10) from the normative implications.”

A note on participation: depending on how many students
attend the class, format and participation are discussed and agreed-upon on week one. Attendance is not compulsory, but registered students are normally encouraged to do presentations and in-class discussion of case studies.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment language</th>
<th>Italian</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</td>
<td>The evaluation is based on the students’ ability to demonstrate a thoughtful, solicitous and effective reading of all materials featured in the coursework. Student are expected to understand the question and address it in a language that is not ‘their own’ language but rather the (technical) language of Political Theory. They are expected to synthesize the argument, stay always on topic, and make judgments based on a careful reading of the assignments. The ‘realities’ of political theory are, in fact, theoretical, they exist in the discourses and practices of human beings. And they are addressed and described in books and handbooks. Students are expected to study carefully these sources and make coherent references to the items listed in the syllabus.</td>
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Peter Wenz, *Beyond Red and Blue* (Cambridge, MA 2009)  
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplementary readings</td>
<td>None</td>
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