

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	1st semester 2018/2019
Year	1
Credits	7
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/en/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. The focus is mainly theoretical for the course provides, as any standard Comparative Politics course, a general overview of the design and logics of functioning of political systems. The course does not aim to offer specific professional skills. Students who take this course will be able to make sense, and give an account of the complex design of states, parties and international organizations in a comparative perspective. Special focus is on the EU and the US.</p>
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Lecturer	Roberto Farneti Office SER E202 roberto.farneti@unibz.it Tel. 0471/013128 https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/17315-roberto-farneti
Scientific sector of the lecturer	SPS/04
Teaching language	English
Office hours	24 hours Cockpit – students' zone – individual timetable Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?department=26&degree=12833%2C13016
Lecturing assistant	-
Teaching assistant	-
Office hours	-

List of topics covered	<p>Lecture 1 briefly establishes the overall goals for our exploration and describes the major analytical categories. In lectures 2 through 9 students will rehearse some key notions for the study of democratic institutions (parties, movements, etc.). The following 6 lectures (from lecture 10 to lecture 15) focus on challenges to democratic universalism, such as culture, regions and ethno-regional parties (lectures 13 and 14), contested areas, minority nationalism, and democratic state-building. Two lectures will be focusing on the timely and sensitive issue of populism and challenges to representative democracy (lectures 11 and 12).</p> <p>Lectures 16 through 18 focus on the EU, its political structure, its politics of enlargement, and its attitude towards prospective members (e.g. Turkey). We have then 3 lectures on the meanings (and stakes) involved in the so-called third wave of democratization (following the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe and the ex USSR) and the attendant Enlargement of the EU. The last set of lectures (from 22 through 24) addresses the issue of "Compound Democracies" (following Fabbrini 2006) and explores both similarities and differences of two notable political systems: the US and the EU.</p>
Teaching format	Frontal lectures, using powerpoints

Learning outcomes	<p>The course introduces the basics of Comparative Politics, 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). Comparative Politics combines the empirical analysis with a normative approach to political phenomena. Its principal objective is to compare different political systems so as to define their distinctive features.</p> <p><u>Knowledge and understanding:</u> Comparative Politics (that is often identified with Political Science proper, even though 'Political Science' is by many considered the name of the whole field) is a taxonomic discipline, that by applying comparative criteria, fosters the knowledge of the mechanisms of aggregation and disaggregation that characterize political processes. Its object are political systems in general (for Political Theory it is political ideas) and "Compound democracies" in particular (EU and US).</p> <p><u>Applying knowledge and understanding:</u> Comparative politics adopts mainly empirical methods even though its orientation remains in large part normative. The object of the discipline, or sub-discipline,</p>
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	<p>are political systems, but its principal aim is the study of democracies, particularly sophisticated systems that we distinguish from all other systems by means of normative criteria. Students, by relying on theoretical acquisitions from Political Science 1, will be able to examine the great contexts, now global, in which states and international organizations operate.</p> <p>Ability to address specific case studies combining normative and empirical approaches.</p> <p>Ability to identify political systems on a number of typological families.</p> <p>Students are expected to combine empirical and normative abilities and describe and assess institutions and realities at the state-level. Communication skills are critical in describing the design and functioning of political institutions and realities.</p>
Assessment	<p>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 two principal approaches to explaining European integration (Caramani p. 576)."</p> <p>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.</p>
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	<p>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 Comparative Politics. They are expected to synthesize the argument, stay on topic, and make judgments based on a careful reading of the assignments. The 'realities' of Comparative Politics are, in fact, empirical, they exist out there in a political world inhabited by human beings, but they remain accessible through written texts. Students are expected to study carefully these sources and make coherent references to the items listed in the syllabus.</p>

Required readings	<p>Daniele Caramani (ed.), <i>Comparative Politics</i> 4th edition (Oxford 2017)</p> <p>Benjamin Moffitt, <i>The Global Rise of Populism: Performance, Political Style, and Representation</i> (Stanford University Press 2017)</p>
Supplementary readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - S. Fabbrini, <i>Compound Democracies: Why the United States and Europe Are Becoming Similar</i> (Cambridge 2007) - F. Fukuyama, <i>Falling Behind</i> (Oxford 2008) - H. Wydra, <i>Communism and the Emergence of Democracy</i> (Cambridge 2007) - J. Zielonka, <i>Europe as Empire: The Nature of the Enlarged European Union</i> (Oxford 2006) - T. Judt, <i>Postwar</i> (Penguin 2005) -