# Syllabus

## Course description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Course title</strong></th>
<th>Comparative Politics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course code</strong></td>
<td>27209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scientific sector</strong></td>
<td>SPS/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Degree</strong></td>
<td>Bachelor in Economics and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester and academic year</strong></td>
<td>1 semester a.y. 2020/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year</strong></td>
<td>1st year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Modular</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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/](https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-social-sciences/)

### Specific educational objectives

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 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.

### Lecturer

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](https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/44686-paolo-chiocchetti)

### 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/?sourceId=unibz&department=26&degree=13141%2C13182](https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?sourceId=unibz&department=26&degree=13141%2C13182)

### Lecturing assistant

--

### Teaching assistant

--
List of topics covered

Introduction: presentation of the course; the nature of politics; the discipline of Comparative Politics.

Comparative political institutions: 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.

Comparative political behaviour: ideas and attitudes; participation and mobilization; representation.

Comparative political outcomes: public policy; political change.

Conclusion: understanding research texts; applying concepts and methods; summary of the course.

Teaching format

Frontal lectures + seminar discussions, practical exercises

Learning outcomes

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:

Knowledge and understanding

• recall and explain key concepts, theories, debates, and methods in Comparative Politics;
• describe and classify selected political systems around the world;

Applying knowledge and understanding

• identify the goals, methodology, and limitations of original research articles;
• apply concepts and methods of political research to real-world cases;

Making judgments

• 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);

Communication skills

• communicate information and opinions precisely, in the technical language of Comparative Politics, and according to appropriate academic standards;

Learning skills

• analyse, synthesize, and critically evaluate academic texts (textbooks, original research articles).

Assessment

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:

• five factual questions with a one-line answer (example Q: What system of government is France? A: Semi-presidential republic) – 10 points;
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.

The assessment mode is the same for attending and non-attending students.

**Assessment language**

**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**

Students need to read and reflect on the following twelve required readings (in total about 910 pages):

**One textbook:**


**One textbook chapter:**


**Nine original research texts:**


One single-country overview:

12) a book chapter on the political system of a country of your choice, for example:


Supplementary readings

Optional suggestions if you wish to explore more in-depth the political system of key countries: