

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. 2021/2022
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/en/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-social-sciences/

Specific educational objectives	<p>The course is mandatory for the PPE and it belongs to the disciplinary sector of Political Science. The core aim of the course is to provide 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 able to follow and grasp key political concepts and debates, furthermore, they will be able to analyze 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 https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/45699-benedetta-carlotti
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=13182%2C13324
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.
<p>Teaching format</p>	<p>Frontal lectures + seminar discussions, practical exercises</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>

Assessment	<p>The course is assessed through a Two-hours written final exam. The exam modality will be the same both if you attend or not the course.</p> <p>The final exam will consist of 13 written questions for a total of 30 points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ten “quick answer” questions (1 point each) · Two analytical questions with a maximum 8 lines answer (5 points each) · One analytical question with a maximum of 15 lines answer related to one of the core concepts of Comparative politics studied during the course (10 points)
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	<p>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).</p>

Required readings	<p>You will have the following required readings. Please note that texts will be provided to you during the course. There are added optional readings indicated below and will eventually be provided during the classes.</p> <p>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.
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	<p><i>International Political Science Review</i> 36 (3): 250–263. https://doi.org/10.1177/0192512115576236.</p>
<p>Supplementary readings</p>	<p>The following readings are provided only if you wish to explore more in-depth some of the arguments treated during the course (they are not meant to be compulsory).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lijphart, A. (2012) <i>Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries</i> (2nd edn) (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press). • Brooker, P. (2014). <i>Non-Democratic Regimes</i> (Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan). • Cotta, M., & Verzichelli, L. (2016). <i>Il sistema politico italiano</i>. Bologna: il Mulino • Lauber, V. (2019). <i>Contemporary Austrian Politics</i>. Routledge. • Schmidt, M. G. (2016). <i>Das politische System Deutschlands: Institutionen, Willensbildung und Politikfelder</i>. CH Beck. • Hix, Simon, and B. Høyland. 2011. <i>The Political System of the European Union</i>, 3rd ed. London: Macmillan. • Richard M. Valelly. 2013. <i>American politics: a very short introduction</i>. Oxford University Press. • Wright, T. (2020). <i>British politics: a very short introduction</i>. Oxford University Press. • Morini, M. (2020). <i>La Russia di Putin</i>, Bologna: il Mulino