

Department of Law

General information	
Academic subject	<i>Comparative Constitutional Law</i>
Degree course	LMG
Academic Year	4°
European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)	9
SSD	GIUR-11/B (DSG 12/GIUR-11)
Language	Italian
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	First Semester (from 1 october 2025 to 16 december 2025)
Attendance	Attendance is not mandatory, but recommended

Professor/ Lecturer	
Name and Surname	Marina Calamo Specchia
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Department and address	Del Prete” Building, Cesare Battisti Square 1, IV floor
Tutoring (time and day)	Tuesday, 10.00-12.00, Times may vary depending on exams, graduation ceremonies, and lessons. Any changes will be communicated via the teacher's profile. The teacher receives both in teams and individually. Outside of office hours, meetings can be scheduled by appointment.

Syllabus	
Learning Objectives	<p>The course aims to provide a method of analysis of constitutional phenomena in a comparative perspective, with a particular focus on the countries belonging to the so-called Western legal tradition.</p> <p>After an introduction on the method and function of comparative constitutional law and on legal families, four major thematic areas will be addressed: forms of state, forms of government (and electoral systems), types of state and constitutional guarantees.</p> <p>For each thematic area, the main models of the European and North American areas will be analyzed in comparison with the Italian experience.</p> <p>Furthermore, the student will be provided with in-depth skills regarding the techniques of writing constitutional documents and the resulting institutional dynamics. This is in order to train the ability to independently analyze a system or a constitutional reform.</p> <p>The course therefore has the objective of highlighting to the student the dichotomy existing between the two typical levels of generalization found in the empirical sciences: that of observational laws and that of theories, in close connection with the theme of the relationship between understanding, explanation and prediction.</p> <p>At the end of the course, the student's ability to epistemologically qualify each different legal context he has studied represents a basic skill that he must have learned.</p>
Course prerequisites	Constitutional Law
Contents	Comparative method – Circulation of models - constitution and constitutionalism –

	Constitutional transformations – Constitutional emergency – Democracy and security - legal families – Forms of State – Forms of Government – Types of state and multilevel government – models of comparative constitutional justice.
Books and bibliography	A. Di Giovine – A. Algostino – F. Longo – A. Mastromarino, Lezioni di Diritto Costituzionale Comparato, Le Monnier, latest edition.
Additional materials	Chapters 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13 are mandatory. Excluding the cap. 22 and 23. 3 chapters to choose between 14 and 21 Additional instructional resources, applicable to particular insights, will be made accessible via e-learning and/or a dedicated team class.

Work schedule			
Total	Lectures	Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study Hours
Hours			
225	52	20	153
ECTS			
9			
Teaching strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lectures and debate on case-law - follow-up activities (conferences, seminars, specialized instruction, etc.) - multimedia tools (power point, collaborative student research on online databases). - additional instructional materials 		
Expected learning outcomes			
Knowledge and understanding on:	The goal of the course is to encourage students to acquire the subject's technical material in both a synchronic and diachronic sense.		
Applying knowledge and understanding on:	The teaching focuses on offering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the capacity to acquire research techniques and comparative analysis. - the ability to contextualize legal contexts historically and culturally. - Acquiring and comprehending knowledge of comparative law terminology. 		
Soft skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Making informed judgments and choices</i> The course's goal is to instill in students the ability to analyze and evaluate legal dynamics throughout their historical evolution, as well as to contextualize them.		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> The course's goal is to encourage students to learn the subject's specific vocabulary as well as linguistic contextualization methodologies for translation. • <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> The course aims to stimulate the student's capability in the epistemological qualification of the legal context with which he/she is confronted and makes a comparison.
Assessment and feedback	
Methods of assessment	Oral Exam. Non mandatory intermediate exam on parts of the program covered in class.
Evaluation criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Knowledge and understanding</i> Assessment of the subject's technical content knowledge in both a synchronic and diachronic sense • <i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i> Assessment of the level of understanding of analysis and research methods. Evaluation of the ability to apply these methodologies in various contexts. • <i>Autonomy of judgment</i> Evaluation of the ability to analyze and contextualize changing legal dynamics. • <i>Communication skills</i> Assessment of proficiency in using and comprehending comparative legal terminology • <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> Evaluation of the student's ability in the epistemological qualification of the analyzed legal context.
Criteria for assessment and attribution of the final mark	<p>The evaluation is expressed in thirtieths. The exam is considered passed with a minimum score of 18 out of 30.</p> <p>For the attribution of the final mark, the level of preparation achieved in accordance with the aforementioned criteria will be taken into account and, in line with the expected learning outcomes, the different levels of preparation will lead to different judgments: excellent (30/30 with honors), very good (28/29), good (25/27), satisfactory (21/24), sufficient (18/20). The honors is awarded on the basis of the previous unanimous consent of the examination committee.</p>
Additional information	Out-going Erasmus students must submit to the teacher the program of the subjects they intend to study at the host foreign university
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