

## COURSE OF STUDY: POLITICAL SCIENCES (L-36)

**ACADEMIC YEAR: 2024/25**

### ACADEMIC SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE

General information	
Year of the course	II
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	I semester (16.09.2024 - 13.12.2024)
Credits (CFU/ETCS):	8
SSD	SPS/04 Political Science
Language	Italian
Mode of attendance	Strongly recommended

Professor/ Lecturer	
Name and Surname	Alfredo Ferrara
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Telephone	-
Department and address	Palazzo Franco Cassano – Corso Italia 23, 70122 Bari
Virtual room	The Microsoft Teams platform will be used for remote colloquia. Students who would like to request a virtual colloquium may email the teacher to accord the appointment. The platform will be used exclusively for virtual colloquia, any other type of communication should be done via email.
Office Hours (and modalities: e.g., by appointment, on line, etc.)	Every Wednesday from 09.00 to 11.00 a.m., also in telematic mode via Microsoft Teams platform

Work schedule			
Hours			
Total	Lectures	Hands-on (laboratory, workshops, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
200	64		136
CFU/ETCS			
8	8		

<b>Learning Objectives</b>	The aim of the course is to provide students with the fundamentals of political science, with special focus on its characterizing topics and its conceptual framework
<b>Course prerequisites</b>	None

<b>Teaching strategy</b>	Classroom teaching.
<b>Expected learning outcomes in terms of</b>	
<b>Knowledge and understanding on:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through knowledge of the concepts, theories and authors of political science, students will gain awareness of their historical evolution, will be able to relate them to each other, to compare alternative hypotheses, and to problematize what they have learned.</li> </ul>
<b>Applying knowledge and understanding on:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theoretical knowledge progressively acquired during the course will enable students to be equipped with a varied theoretical framework useful for the investigation and understanding of contemporary political phenomena, the questioning of the present and awareness of the plurality of perspectives through which it can be investigated.</li> </ul>

<b>Soft skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Autonomy of judgment Students will be able to formulate autonomous evaluations and coherent reflections, including critical thinking, on political science issues. The teacher will motivate students to collect and/or, process and/or interpret information on these phenomena that may be the subject of their future professional activity, identifying theories useful in questioning them.</li> <li>✓ Communication skills Students will be able to communicate and explain arguments, enhancing their skills of expression through the acquisition of a rigorous and plural conceptual framework.</li> <li>✓ Capacities to continue learning The course - by providing a basic knowledge of the vocabulary, tools of inquiry and theories of political science - aims to stimulate students' skills to autonomously search for conceptual tools and theories useful in the analysis of political phenomena, to deal with contemporary political phenomena by autonomously creating connections. Students will be able to check their knowledge in order to identify knowledge gaps but also to deepen the acquired skills. Making informed judgments and choices</li> </ul>
<b>Syllabus</b>	
<b>Content knowledge</b>	The subject of the course is an introduction to the topics of Political Science. In the first part, the institutional one, the topics of Political Science (forms of state and government, electoral systems, political participation, parties and movements, ...) will be addressed in a thematic way. In the second part, the key themes of political science will be discussed through the method of matrices (conceptual maps).
<b>Texts and readings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cotta M., Della Porta D. e M. Morlino, <i>Scienza politica</i>, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2008.</li> <li>- Calise M., Lowi T.J., e F. Musella, <i>Concetti chiave. Manuale di scienza politica</i>, Il Mulino 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Notes, additional materials</b>	
<b>Repository</b>	The texts are available in the Biblioteca di Scienze Politiche. <a href="https://www.uniba.it/it/ricerca/dipartimenti/scienze-politiche/biblioteca/biblioteche-1/servizi-offerti">https://www.uniba.it/it/ricerca/dipartimenti/scienze-politiche/biblioteca/biblioteche-1/servizi-offerti</a>
<b>Assessment</b>	
<b>Assessment methods</b>	The assessment methods of the expected learning outcomes consist of an oral examination, which will be composed of a reasonable number of questions related to the teaching program.
<b>Assessment criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Knowledge and understanding: i.e., gaining and understanding the knowledge proposed in the course, being able to establish connections among them, identifying different interpretative hypotheses, being able to locate them historically and problematize them. Students will be expected to answer the questions by demonstrating that they have studied and understood the content.</li> <li>✓ Applying knowledge and understanding: i.e., gaining the ability to apply what has been learned to understand and problematize different political phenomena, identify the plurality of perspectives and paradigms through which this can be done. Students will be expected to make connections between what they have learned and issues pertinent to contemporary political science debate.</li> <li>✓ Autonomy of judgment: i.e., to identify and consciously create conceptual tools useful in the interpretation and investigation of political phenomena. Students will be expected to make theoretical and</li> </ul>

	<p>conceptual choices among alternative options and to justify them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Communicating knowledge and understanding: i.e., being able to present one's knowledge and argue one's thoughts clearly, using the basic concepts and vocabulary of Political Science thoughtfully. Students will be expected to answer questions comprehensively, with language and synthesis skills</li> <li>✓ Capacities to continue learning: i.e. being able to identify relevant political phenomena, sources within which to find conceptual and theoretical resources. Students will be expected to autonomously make these explorations, which are preliminary to the formulation of any aware interpretation and formulation of hypotheses.</li> </ul>
<p>Final exam and grading criteria</p>	<p>The criteria followed for the assessment of learning outcomes, expressed in thirtieths, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insufficient: 0-17 Lacking, incomplete and inadequate knowledge of the topics contained in the syllabus and low conceptualisation skills.</li> <li>- Pass: 18-20 Sufficient knowledge of the topics contained in the syllabus and sufficient skill in conceptualisation</li> <li>- Fair: 21-23 Fair knowledge of the topics contained in the syllabus; fair skill in argumentation and in making connections between the various topics covered; appropriate use of political science concepts</li> <li>- Good: 24-26 Good knowledge of the topics contained in the syllabus; appropriate use of political science concepts and good critical skills.</li> <li>- Excellent: 27-28 Better than good knowledge of all the topics contained in the syllabus; better than good ability to deepen and make connections between the different topics; appropriate use of political science concepts and aptitude for critical reasoning.</li> <li>- Outstanding: 29-30 Excellent knowledge of all the topics contained in the syllabus; very good skills in deepening and making connections between the different topics; strong critical skills and excellent knowledge of political science concepts.</li> <li>- Excellent with honours: 30L Excellent knowledge of all topics in the syllabus; excellent skills in deepening and making connections between different topics; strong critical awareness and excellent understanding of political science concepts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Further information</b></p>	