



Syllabus

Academic Year	2023/2024
Program	Politics: Philosophy and Economics
Course	Political Sociology
Term	I semester
Year	3
SSD	SPS/11 - Sociologia dei fenomeni politici
Credits	6

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

The task of political sociology is to explore and explain the relationship between politics and society, between social and political institutions, and between social and political behaviour. Contemporary political sociology also “concerns cultural politics, which is the interpretation of social meanings that support, challenge, or change the definitions, perspectives and identities of social actors, to the advantage of some and the disadvantage of others, across the state and society” (Nash 2010). This course aims to explore some of the great debates about the relationship between politics and society. In particular, it explores the challenges faced by nation-state as a result of social movements, new conceptions of democracy and globalization, the insurgence of populisms also considering the post-colonial approach and the new trends in political sociology. The course has two main goals: to provide good knowledge of the main aspects and problems of political sociology; to provide a basic understanding of the theoretical tools, methodologies and techniques for the analysis of the relationships between politics and society. These goals will be achieved through lectures, class activities, debating and case studies analysis.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

They describe what a learner is expected to know, understand and be able to demonstrate after completion of a learning path.

Knowledge and understanding:

Knowledge and understanding of the forms and processes of political sociology, through the acquisition of theoretical skills on the relationships between social inclusion and power and the linkages between politics and complex societies.

The students achieve this basic knowledge through the attendance of lessons and the study of the texts provided by the teacher and discussed in the classroom.

Applying knowledge and understanding:

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding through the ability to analyse the relationships between political institutions and their impact on society, applying the main analysis methodologies.

Skills acquired through laboratory exercises in the classroom (on-campus or online).

Making judgements:



Judgment: a critical reflection on the evolutionary dynamics of the relationship between instances of social and political participation and transformations of institutions and the public sphere. A special focus will be dedicated to the emergent political trends of modern political society, such as the nationalisms, the populisms, the authoritarianism.

This judgment must be applied in the classroom discussion with the teacher and the colleagues *, during the exercises, and in the preparation of the activities scheduled in the classroom.

Communications Skills:

The students are called to interact in the classroom through questions, exchanges with their colleagues, writing short presentations, and illustrating the proposed texts.

Skills that are practised in the classroom with the organization of moments of discussion and exercise.

Learning skills:

Students are asked to adopt a critical learning method capable of connecting theoretical skills and empirical analysis, focusing on the specification of autonomous thinking.

Skills to be enhanced thanks to the argumentation with the teacher and the classmates.

Pre-requisites

None.

Course content

1. Politics and Society

- Key concepts in political sociology
- Political sociology as a connective social science
- Power and Legitimacy
- The distribution of power

2. Globalization and Ideologies

- Ideologies
- Ideology and Hegemony
- Hegemonic culture
- Global world, globalization, and ideologies

3. Democracy

- The quality of democracy
- Representative and direct democracy
- Deliberative democracy
- Participatory democracy

4. Representation

- The transformation of political representation
 - Political Parties
 - Elections and voting
-



-
- Post-representative politics

 - 5. Political Participation
 - Critic citizens and the new forms of participation
 - Social conflict and urban practices of participation
 - Social Movements
 - Movement Parties

 - 6. Democratic Innovations and Citizenship
 - Social Cleavages
 - Civic engagement and political behaviour
 - Active citizenship and quality of democracy
 - Forms and tools of democratic innovations
 - Gender, Ethnicity and post-national citizenship

 - 7. Populism and authoritarianism
 - Definitions and approaches
 - Causes and impact on democracy
 - Populism and fascism
 - Populism and nationalism
 - Populism and neoliberalism

 - 8. Postcolonialism
 - Definitions and approaches
 - Postcolonialism and intersectionality
 - Decolonisation of knowledge
 - Populism in former colonies
 - Populism in former colonizing countries

 - 9. Media, Politics and Society
 - Basic concepts
 - Cultural Studies and Critical Media Studies
 - Models and theories of communication
 - Political Communication
-



	<p>10. Depoliticisation and the Post-Political</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Depoliticisation: basic concepts- Governance vs Government- Post-democracy and post-representative politics- Technocracy, the post-political and the technopopulism- The rising of the new populisms between hyper-representation and “direct representation” <p>Going further</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Focus 1: Globalization, the pandemic and the ecological approaches- Focus 2: Online participation- Focus 3: Post-colonialism and populisms
Reference Books	<p>De Nardis, F. (2020). Understanding Politics and Society. London: Palgrave</p> <p>Further readings will be provided by the teachers.</p>
Teaching Methods	<p>Lectures, focused debating, papers presentation in class, exercises, case studies analysis.</p> <p>Tools and platforms: Learn, Perusall, Kialo-edu</p>
Assessment	<p>The assessment method is based on three steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Paper’s presentation in class and/or activities of social/collaborative learning (mandatory – 30%)2. Essay (max: 3,500 words – 40%)3. Final exam (Q&A: 30% – topics: books, lectures, presentations, articles) <p>1. Presentation in class and/or activities of social/collaborative learning</p> <p>This assignment asks you to make an oral presentation, using ppt or similar, lasting about 15 minutes in which you report on the topic/s you received.</p> <p>The presentation will be assessed in terms of (a) content, (b) organisation, (c) supporting materials, and (d) delivery.</p> <p>2. Essay</p> <p>The essay’s length must be between 3,000 and 3,500 words.</p> <p>It must be composed in Word format (.doc, .docx) and uploaded to the virtual class repository by 6 December 2020 (or, however, 10 days before the exam’s date)</p> <p>The suggested structure is the following:</p>



- Introduction
- theoretical framework
- methodology (if the paper is based on field research)
- findings and discussion
- conclusions
- bibliography.

The citation system must be “Harvard Citation System” or APA system (as described in “Final dissertation” page).

The essay must be uploaded in the provided space on the Luiss Learn platform.

3. Final exam

An open-ended questionnaire.

Exams: not attending students

The final exam previews:

- 1) Essay (as for the attending students)
- 2) Final exam (Q&A) based on the three reference books and the article (the class activities are replaced by the third book).

The not attending students are kindly requested to send the essay to the teacher, via email (no uploading on Learn platform, please).

Further information: <http://docenti.luiss.it/sorice/political-sociology/teaching>