

## POLITICAL SCIENCE (cod. 30200 - AY 2015/16)

**Instructors:** prof. Giunia Gatta ([giunia.gatta@unibocconi.it](mailto:giunia.gatta@unibocconi.it))  
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### Introduction to the course

The course provides the main analytical tools needed to understand political phenomena in both national and international contexts. In the first part the course addresses methodological issues pertaining to political analysis, it emphasizes the peculiarity of the political sphere with respect to other dimensions of social reality, and it surveys realities, problems and concepts of great importance in politics: political systems, power, the state, citizenship, sovereignty, nationalism, democracy, ideology, political culture, political participation, the media. In the second part, the main features of the Italian political system are analyzed.

### Detailed Course Content

#### PART I: Introduction to Political Science

##### Texts

Rod Hague e Martin Harrop (2013), *Comparative Government and Politics. An introduction*, Houndmills-Basingstoke: Macmillan.

Hannah Arendt (1970), *On Violence*, New York: Harcourt Brace.

##### Lecture 1: Introduction and organization of the course

##### Lecture 2: Political concepts

Hague and Harrop, pp. 1-10

Hannah Arendt, *On Violence*, part I.

##### Further Optional Readings:

Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, Book I, Chapter 1.

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Book I, Chapters 13-14.

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, chapters 2-4

##### Lecture 3: Power

Hannah Arendt, *On Violence*, part II.

Hague and Harrop, pp. 10-12

##### Further Optional Readings:

Robert Dahl, "The Concept of Power."

Steven Lukes, *Power, a Radical View*, Chapter 1 pp. 14-38.

Clarissa Hayward, "De-Facing Power"

##### Lecture 4: The State and sovereignty

Hague and Harrop, pp. 13-15, 21-40

Hannah Arendt, *On Violence*, part III.

##### Further Optional Readings:

Jean Bodin, *Six Books of the Commonwealth*, Book I, Chapter X, "On sovereignty"

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Book II, Chapters 20-24.

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, chapters 18-19.

**Lecture 5:** Democracy

Hague and Harrop, pp.41-54

Sheldon Wolin, "Fugitive Democracy"

Further Optional Readings:

Amartya Sen, "Democracy as a Universal Value"

Bruce Russett, "The Fact of Democratic Peace"

Robert Dahl, *On Democracy*, choose one chapter.

D. Held, "Competitive Elitism and the Technocratic Vision"

**Lecture 6:** Democratization and nondemocratic regimes

Hague &amp; Harrop, ch. 4

Further Optional Readings:

Barrington Moore, "The Democratic Route to Modern Society"

Hannah Arendt, "Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government"

Samuel Huntington, "What?" in *Third Wave*

Alfred Stepan and Juan Linz, "Democratization Theory and the 'Arab Spring'"

**Lecture 7:** Selected approaches

Hague &amp; Harrop, ch. 5

Further Optional Readings:

Sheldon Wolin, "Political Theory as a Vocation"

Kenneth Waltz, "Structural Realism After the Cold War"

Alex Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It"

**Lecture 8:** Political culture

Hague &amp; Harrop, ch. 6

Further Optional Readings:

Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone"

Susan Moller Okin, "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?"

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations"

**Lecture 9:** Political participation

Hague &amp; Harrop, ch. 8, pp. 134-140; ch. 9 pp. 150, 153, 158, 160-161, 164-167; ch. 10 pp. 172-173, 182-182; ch. 11 pp. 190-197, 206-207.

Further Optional Readings:

Ann Towns, "The Status of Women as a standard of 'Civilization'"

"Voting Rights and Voting Wrongs," an interview with Lani Guinier

Sidney Tarrow, *Power in Movement*, Introduction**Lecture 10:** Constitutions and law

Hague &amp; Harrop, ch. 13

Further Optional Readings:

Sheldon Wolin, "Collective Identity and Constitutional Power"

Turkuler Isiksel, "Between text and context: Turkey's tradition of authoritarian constitutionalism"

Giovanni Sartori, "Constitutionalism: A Preliminary Discussion"

**Lecture 11:** Multilevel governance and the European Union

Hague &amp; Harrop, ch. 14

Further Optional Readings:

Ian Bache and Matthew Flinders, "Themes and Issues in Multi-Level Governance"

Benjamin Barber, *If Mayors Ruled the World*, Chapter 1

Robert Dahl, "Can International Organizations be Democratic? A Skeptic's View"

**Lecture 12:** Legislatures

Hague &amp; Harrop, ch. 15

Further Optional Readings:

Richard Corbett, Francis Jacobs and Michael Shackleton, "The [European] Parliament in Context"

Barbara Sinclair, "The New World of U.S. Senators"

Gerhard Loewenberg, Peverill Squire and Roderick Kiewiet, *Legislatures: Comparative Perspectives on Representative Assemblies*, any chapter.**Lecture 13:** The political executive

Hague &amp; Harrop, ch. 16

Further Optional Readings:

William Scheuermann, "Liberal Democracy and the Empire of Speed"

Deidre Curtin, *Executive Power of the European Union*, any chapterThomas Poguntke and Paul Webb, eds., *The Presidentialization of Politics*, any chapter.**Lecture 14:** The bureaucracy and the policy process

Hague &amp; Harrop, ch. 17, 18

Further Optional Readings:Franz Kafka, *The Trial*

Max Weber, "Bureaucracy," 1-3

Paul Sabatier, ed., *Theories of the Policy Process***PART II: The Italian Political System in Comparative Perspective**Textbook: M. Cotta and L. Verzichelli (2007), *Political Institutions in Italy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.**Lecture 15:** The Italian polityCotta and Verzichelli, ch. 1**Lecture 16:** The (Italian) republic of partiesCotta and Verzichelli, ch. 2**Lecture 17:** Electoral systems and electionsCotta and Verzichelli, ch. 3**Lecture 18:** The ExecutiveCotta and Verzichelli, ch. 4**Lecture 19:** The ParliamentCotta and Verzichelli, ch. 5**Lecture 20:** Local governmentCotta and Verzichelli, ch. 6

**Lecture 21: Bureaucracy and Regulatory Bodies**

♦ Cotta and Verzichelli, ch. 7

**Lecture 22: Judicial power**

Cotta and Verzichelli, ch. 8

**Lecture 23: New Forms of Populism? Italy in Comparative Perspective**

Caiani and Graziano, "Varieties of Populism: The Italian Case", 2015

Font, Graziano and Tsakatika, "Economic Crisis and Inclusionary Populism: Evidence from Southern Europe", 2015

**Lecture 24: Final discussion and students' presentations**

**Assessment:**

1. Written exam(s). You have two options:

- a) You may take two midterms (45% of the grade each). In this case, the exam will be considered as passed only if in both mid-terms the grade is at least 18/30.
- b) You may take a general exam (90% of the grade)

You have to register at any "*Punto Blu*" in order to take the exam.

- Notice this new rule: If you are not on the list provided to me by the Bocconi Registrar, you will **NOT** be able to take the exam. No exceptions are possible under any circumstances.

2. Student will also choose one item from those indicated as "Further Readings" to present briefly to the class one time during the first part of the semester, on the designated day (10% of the grade) Arrangements will be made on the first day of class.

Università Bocconi conceives of education as an ongoing process that stretches across a person's entire professional life. The University hopes that the entire Bocconi community will respect the values of fairness and correctness associated with it, values which inspire and guide the conduct of all community members as they pursue common objectives and a shared mission. The Università Bocconi Honor Code is published at <http://www.unibocconi.eu/honorcode>. We encourage all students to read it.

**Office Hours:**

GIUNIA GATTA Wednesday, 12:30-2:30 (room 3B1-08)

P.R. GRAZIANO Monday, 2:30-4:00 pm (room 3B214)