



Academic Year 2022-2023

Syllabus

Political systems

CFU 6

Prof. Emilie Frenkiel and Prof. Samuel Hayat

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of politics. It aims at familiarizing students with the main concepts of political science with a focus on the concepts of public sphere, democracy, authoritarianism, representation, deliberation and participation. With special emphasis on the origins, evolution and the diversity of political situations and attention to not only national but also local and global scales, we will compare and contrast the political systems of various countries of the world, the roles of key political and social actors, political institutions, political processes and patterns of political competition. We will be particularly interested in the genealogy of political systems and in comparing European and Asian countries (including China, India, Japan, Taiwan). The main objective for this course is to provide students with the broad context needed for analyzing the political phenomena of any country.

Teaching Method

The course is based on lectures introducing students with major political concepts, institutions, processes, theories, and detailing case studies taken both from consolidated Western democracies, more recent democracies (India, Japan, Brazil) and non-democratic countries like Russia and China. Active participation is demanded on the part of students, as well as mandatory readings for each session. Lectures will be supplemented with practical study based on class discussions, text commentaries, as well as collective projects comparing specific countries.

Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	What is politics?
Topic 2	What is the public sphere? What role do media and social media play in democracies?
Topic 3	How to define a good society?
Focus 1	China: an authoritarian Southern “good society”?
Topic 4	The state and the political field
Topic 5	Citizenship and voting
Topic 6	Collective action and social movements
Focus 2	Workers’ movements and the democratization of democracies
Topic 7	Representing opposing interests
Topic 8	States as international actors
Topic 9	Globalisation and transnational politics
Focus 3	Inventing a new political system: the European Union

Textbooks and Materials

Alan Draper, Ansil Ramsay, *The Good society: an introduction to comparative politics*, 2nd edition, Pearson, 2012

Phillips Shively, *Power & Choice_ An Introduction to Political Science*, 15th edition, Rowman & Littlefield, 2018

Robert A. Dahl, Ian Shapiro and José Antonio Cheibub, *The Democracy Sourcebook*, MIT, 2003

Émilie Frenkiel (ed.), « Democracy: Bridging the Representation Gap » (special issue), *Books and Ideas*, 28 December 2011, <http://www.booksandideas.net/Democracy-Bridging-the.html>

Hanna F. Pitkin, *The Concept of Representation*, University of California Press, 1967, chapter 10: “Political Representation”

Pierre Rosanvallon, *Democracy, Past and Future*, Columbia University Press, 2007

Max Weber, *The Vocation Lectures*, Hackett Books, 2004, chapter “Politics as a Vocation”

Assessment

Students will be assessed through a group presentation (40%) and, for the final exam, a written text commentary (60%). Students are demanded to study class material assiduously and actively take part in class discussions, notably as they prepare their presentations and text commentaries throughout the course. Their final mark will also be rounded off so as to reflect their homework and participation in the class discussions.

Students who do not participate in the group presentation or who reject their mark will take an additional written exam added to the final written exam.

Students who miss any of the assignments without any valid justification will be asked to read extra reading material. Their mark will be based 100% on another written exam. The same applies to students who plagiarize.

Non-attending students are required to take the final exam test with an additional written part based on additional readings they will be assigned. The mark will be based 100% on the final.

Students who have attended less than 80% of the classes will be considered non-attending students and will have to take the exam accordingly.

Office hours

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Appointments with the professors must be taken before or after the class, or by email.

NOTE: If you are an Erasmus or a non Global Governance student who would like to attend one or more courses in the Global Governance programme, please be aware that, **before enrolling in the course**, you should have read the code of conduct and the procedural rules characterizing our programme. We assume that, if you enroll in the course, **you have read and accepted all Global Governance values and rules**. Notice that attendance is required from the very first lesson and you need to attend at least 80% of the course to be considered an attending student.
