



# Laurea / B. A. in Global Governance

**Academic Year 2023-2024**

**Syllabus**

**Comparative Politics**

**CFU 6**

**Prof. Federiga Bindi**

## **Course Description**

The course has two objectives. The first goal of the class is to teach students how to handle the tools of comparative politics. The first classes will therefore be of a more theoretical and methodological kind. The second aim is to familiarize students with European politics and a number of European states. For each case study, the starting point will be an excursus of their history. Second will come the exam of the political culture and of the political institutions. Finally, we will look at their foreign policies and examine how those States have been affected by membership in the European Union. The case studies will allow students to apply the theory and methodology learned in the first part of the class to real case studies.

## **Objective**

After the students will be able to handle the tools of comparative politics and successfully apply them in research papers and analysis. Also, they will have a deep understanding of European politics and of both national political institutions. However, the methodological tools learned will enable them to understand politics and policy making also in realities different from the European one.

## **Teaching Method**

Students are expected to read assignments before class.

Lessons will begin with an introductory lecture, followed by discussion. When appropriate, videos and slides will be also shown and discussed. Students will be asked to present and discuss case studies with their peers and will be graded in doing so.

## **Textbook and Materials**

Josè Magone: Contemporary European Politics: A Comparative Introduction, Routledge, 2nd ed, 2019

Bindi F. (2019): Europe and America: The End of Transatlantic Relations? Brookings Press 2019

And not least: read the news!!!!

More reading may be assigned during the classes

## **Office hours**

Contact email address: federiga.bindi@uniroma2.it

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.

## **Course Requirements**

Students are required to complete all the assignments on time. If you cannot make it for any reason, please let the professor know beforehand or as soon as possible.

1. Quiz on the historical developments of European Politics (25% of final grade)
2. Quiz on the European institutions (25% of final grade)
3. In class think-tank style debate on topics related to Western Europe (25% of final grade)
4. Notes and annotated bibliography from think-tank style debate (25% of final grade)

## **LESSONS' TOPICS**

### **1: Intro to comparative politics**

*Assignments:*

Magone Chapter 1: *Introduction to Comparative Politics*

### **2: The historical developments of European Politics up to WWII**

*Assignments:*

Magone Chapter 2: *The Historical Developments of European Politics* pages 32-54 (up to WWII)

### **3: The historical developments of European Politics: reconstruction and the beginning of the European Communities**

*Assignments:*

Magone Chapter 2: *The Historical Developments of European Politics* pages 55 to 62

### **4: The historical developments of European Politics: The Single Act and the Fall of the Berlin Wall**

*Assignments:*

Magone Chapter 2: *The Historical Developments of European Politics* pages 63 to 73

### **5: The historical developments of European Politics: The Maastricht Treaty and Lisbon Treaty**

*Assignments:*

Review of Part I: *The Historical Developments of European Politics*

Test on Part I: *The Historical Developments of European Politics*

**Quiz on the historical developments of European Politics (25% of final grade)**

## **PART II: GOVERNING EUROPE**

### **6: Governing Europe: The Heads of State**

*Assignments:*

Magone Chapter 4: *Government in Multilevel Europe: The Head of State* (pages 119-131)

➔ Think tank-style debate over the Heads of State of different European Countries

### **7: Governing Europe: The Executive**

*Assignments:*

Magone Chapter 4: *Government in Multilevel Europe: The Government: The Center of Executive Power* (pages 132-166)

➔ Think tank-style debate over governments in different European Countries

## 8: Governing Europe: The Legislative

*Assignments:*

Magone Chapter 5: *The Diversity of Parliamentarism in Multilevel Europe* (pages 174-225)

➔ Think tank-style debate over party politics in different European Countries

## 9: Governing Europe: The Judicial Power

*Assignments:*

Magone Chapter 6: *Judicial Power in Multilevel Europe* (pages 226-254)

➔ Think tank-style debate over the Judicial system in different European Countries

## 10: Governing Europe: The Party Systems

*Assignments:*

Magone Chapter 7: *Political Parties, Party Systems and Elections in Europe* (pages 255-348)

➔ Think tank-style debate over the party system in different European Countries

## 11: Governing Europe: Interest groups

*Assignments:*

Magone Chapter 8: *Interest groups and System of Interest Intermediation* (pages 349-381)

➔ Think tank-style debate over the system of interest Intermediation in different European Countries

## 12: Governing Europe: Regional and Local Government

*Assignments:*

Magone Chapter 9: *Regional and Local Government in Multilevel Europe* (pages 382-415)

➔ Think tank-style debate over Regional and Local Government in different European Countries

## Quiz on the European political institutions (25% of final grade)

**Non-attending students** are required to take the final exam test with an additional question 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.

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## Description of the methods and criteria for testing learning

The examination assesses the student's overall preparation, ability to integrate the knowledge of the different parts of the programme, consequentiality of reasoning, analytical ability and autonomy of judgement. In addition, language property and clarity of presentation are assessed, in accordance with the Dublin descriptors (1. knowledge and understanding; 2. applying knowledge and understanding; 3. making judgements; 4. learning skills; 5. communication skills).

The final grade will be related 70% to the degree of knowledge and 30% to the expressive capacity (written and oral) and autonomous critical judgement demonstrated by the student.

The examination will be graded according to the following criteria:

Unsuitable: important deficiencies and/or inaccuracies in the knowledge and understanding of the topics; limited capacity for analysis and synthesis, frequent generalisations and limited critical and judgement skills; the topics are exposed in an incoherent manner and with inappropriate language.

18-20: barely sufficient knowledge and understanding of the topics, with possible generalisations and imperfections; sufficient capacity for analysis, synthesis and autonomy of judgement; the topics are frequently exposed in an inconsistent manner and with inappropriate/technical language;

21-23: surface knowledge and understanding of the topics; ability to analyse and synthesise correctly with sufficiently coherent logical argumentation and appropriate/technical language.

24-26: fair knowledge and understanding of the topics; good analytical and synthetic skills with rigorously expressed arguments but not always appropriate/technical language.

27-29: complete knowledge and understanding of the topics; considerable capacity for analysis and synthesis. Good autonomy of judgement. Arguments presented in a rigorous manner and with appropriate/technical language.

30-30L: very good level of knowledge and thorough understanding of topics. Excellent analytical and synthetic skills and independent judgement. Arguments expressed in an original manner and in appropriate technical language.

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