Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Political Theory
Course Code	27212
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	GSPS-02/A
Language	Italian
Degree Course	Bachelor in Economics, Politics and Ethics
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	Prof. Roberto Farneti, Roberto.Farneti@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/17315
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
Course Year/s	3
CP	8
Teaching Hours	48
Lab Hours	-
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	24
Contents Summary	List of topics covered by the course The course covers the fundamentals of Political Theory, its concepts and normative concerns, and is divided into 3 main blocks. The first lecture establishes the general objectives, describes the main analytical categories and defines the central principles. A block of 12/13 lessons will address key notions for the study of political theory, such as authority, tolerance, citizenship, multiculturalism and human rights. The next 3 or 4 lessons are devoted to a series of case studies: how people deal with sensitive issues, what are the main rhetorical strategies, political philosophies and general common-sense assumptions involved in debates concerning

	multicultural rights and immigration. This part will help students understand how ideological diversity and the persistence of prejudices shape our ideas and concerns. In the last 6 lessons, we will attempt to explain how we have come to employ the ideologies and reference concepts of the discipline in the ways in which we address and discuss topics partly illustrated in the previous section. Our genealogy goes backwards and seeks to uncover the original clues that still operate in current ways of thinking and framing sensitive issues. From Marx back to Machiavelli we will account for the main theories that shape our understanding of politics. In the last lecture we will draw some conclusions and discuss the practical implications of political theories a little more.
Course Topics	What is normative political theory, and why is it normative? Democracy; citizenship; authority. Contractualism from Hobbes to Rawls. The classical-republican tradition. The normative problems of the open society and the contemporary debate.
Keywords	Democracy; citizenship; authority; justice; equality
Recommended Prerequisites	
Propaedeutic Courses	Not envisaged
Teaching Format	24 two-hour lectures, normally offered twice a week. Instructor uses powerpoint. On the second week of class, instructor will post on the class's Teams a detailed syllabus with specific indications on mid-term, final exam, and overall composition of the grade.
Mandatory Attendance	Not compulsory
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	ILO (Intended Learning Outcomes) ILO 1 Knowledge and understanding ILO 1.1 foundations of political science and understanding of the articulations of the discipline; ILO 1.2 the concept of political power and the conditions of its exercise; ILO 1.3 the distinction between empirical and normative approaches; what theories are for ILO 2 Ability to apply knowledge and understanding ILO 2.1 Ability to distinguish political systems on the basis of normative criteria (e.g. distinguishing the difference between

	democratic and authoritarian systems together with their subcategories) ILO 2.2 Ability to distinguish political systems on the basis of empirical criteria (e.g. distinguish between parliamentary, presidential and semi-presidential systems); ILO 2.3 ability to understand the political logic of globalisation processes; this allows for the integration of strictly political knowledge with that learnt in adjacent areas such as law and economics, which instead investigate the same processes from other perspectives; ILO 2.4 ability to analyse a technical text using appropriate theoretical tools; ILO 2.5 ability to produce a reasoned text on a political science topic ILO 3 Autonomy of judgement ILO 3.1 Acquisition of the capacity for judgement and methodological tools useful for the critical analysis of data, sources, assumptions and implications of scientific practice, and of the political, ethical and legal context within which economic phenomena are set and with which they interact ILO 4 Communication skills ILO 4.1 Proficiency (oral and written) in Italian, German and English, including translation between these languages. Intercultural competence. Conceptual awareness, synthesis and written expression, particularly in the drafting of scientific or science-based documents ILO 5 Learning skills ILO 5.1 Promotion of critical thinking and analytical skills to focus on complex problems in their long-term dynamics and the variety of their implications, including ethical ones
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	

Assessment	See the Evaluation Criteria below (instructor will circulate by week 3 of the course an extended, 4-page syllabus detailing the evaluation criteria))
Evaluation Criteria	1. Participation. Depending on how many students will be attending, format and participation will be discussed and agreed-upon on week one. Attendance is not compulsory but in-class discussion of case studies or 'check tests' by registered students will be looked favorably upon. A policy document will be posted in the class's 'file' folder on Teams, detailing the composition of the grade [ILO4; ILO5]. 2. Project development: Students who regularly attend the class (that is, that will be attending at least 18 lectures) can be part of small groups (3 or 4 students) that will simulate the drafting of a CERV project. Extra points (from 0 to 3) will be granted to all students of groups that successfully complete the task. Research groups will be pitching their project idea at the end of May. Deadline for project's delivery is May 31 [ILO1; ILO2; ILO3; ILO4; ILO5]. 3. Mid-Term and students' position papers: A mid-term is scheduled for the second week of May (maximum 2 points), before the Spring exam session. Selected papers may be presented in class towards the end of May (and earn one extra point) [ILO1; ILO2; ILO3]. 4. 70-minute Final Examination: this is an in-class written exam combining multiple choice + short essay (max 350 words) [ILO1; ILO2; ILO3].
Required Readings	Catriona McKinnon, *Issues in Political Theory* (Oxford UP 2012) Giovanni Sartori, *Elementi di teoria politica* (Il Mulino 1987) Peter Wenz, *Beyond Red and Blue* (MIT Press 2009) Jean-Jacques Chevallier, *Storia del pensiero politico* II. (Il Mulino 1989) AA.VV., *Il pensiero politico. Idee, teorie, dottrine*, voll. II e III (UTET 1999)
Supplementary Readings	

Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Gender equality, Peace, justice and strong institutions, Reduced inequalities