



Code: GSPS-07/A (ex SPS/11)

Credits: 6

Subject: Criminological political phenomena

Main language of instruction: Italian

Other language of instruction: English

Teaching Staff

Head instructor

Prof. Michela Luzi - michela.luzi@unicusano.it

Dr. Gianluca Ortolani - gianluca.ortolani@unicusano.it

Prerequisites

General Sociology

Objectives

The course aims to provide an understanding of the socio-political processes of criminology that can involve individuals in their role as political subjects. Specific topics in the sociology of political phenomena are explored, such as parties, movements, unions, political communication, the crisis of the state, globalization, social capital, and governance. By learning some fundamental concepts, students will acquire, recognize, and identify the key insights that allow them to understand when politics may be implicated in certain deviant and criminal situations.

Competencies:

The course will enable students to acquire a greater capacity for analyzing the social complexity that has led to the crisis in contemporary politics. To do this, students must understand the discipline's key concepts: political socialization, political participation, parties, voters, social movements, pressure groups, and the strategic importance of political communication.

At the end of the course, students will have acquired the fundamental concepts necessary for the basic analysis of political reality. This will provide them with the necessary skills and the ability to tackle and plan the study of more complex courses, which focus on specific aspects of social reality and for which it is essential to have acquired basic knowledge of national political reality, not to mention the emergence of new international political actors in society.

Syllabus

Programme:

The course is organized in 3 topics.

Topic 1. Political, Behavior and participation

Political sociology. The connection between political science and sociology. The main theories of power. The different forms of power. The crisis of political participation. The role of the mass media. Social groups. Political groups. Political parties. Social movements.

Topic 2. States and globalization

The modern state. The democratic state. Nondemocratic regimes. The end of bipolarism. The crisis of the state. The loss of values. Sovereignty. Borders. Territory. Definitions of globalization. Space and time. Connections and synchronization. Intercultural communication. The digital divide. The hypothesis of a global policy. The International Monetary Fund. The World Bank. Multinationals and nongovernmental organizations. Social capital. Government and governance.

Topic 3. Deviance and political crime

Deviance and crime. Deviant minors. Legal norms and social norms. Social control. Criminology. Classic crimes. Criminal organizations. Gender-related crimes. Crimes committed by those in power. Crimes of opinion and political crimes. Corruption. Extortion. Embezzlement. Electoral fraud. Fear and power. Migration. The causes of emigration. The case of Italy. Multiethnicity. Racism. Xenophobia. The importance of integration. The centrality of Europe. European identity and citizenship

Evaluation system and criteria

The final exam consists of an in-person presentation to the examination board of a paper that explains the topics of the course and includes the following sections: introduction, main findings, conclusion, and bibliography (if sources other than the textbook have been used). The paper must be submitted by email to Prof. Michela Luzi a few days before the final exam. In the essay, the students have to demonstrate their skills in learning, understanding, making judgements, communicating. The essay can be in English or Italian.

Erasmus students are encouraged to contact the professor to agree on a customized syllabus.

Study materials (available in both Italian and English) will be provided directly by the professor if not available in the library. The oral exam can be taken in Italian.

Bibliography and resources

1. *Materials to consult:*

D. Croteau, W. Hoynes, *Experience Sociology*, McGraw Hill, 2018 *.

2. *Recommended bibliography:*

3.

N. Marres, *Digital sociology: the reinvention of social research*, Polity Press 2017 *.

M. Ryan, *Core concepts in sociology*, Wiley, 2019 *.

* *Book available for temporary loan at the Unicusano university library.*