



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

**Credits:** 9

**Subject:** Governance e public policy

**Main language of instruction:** Italian

**Other language of instruction:** English

## Teaching Staff

### Head instructor

Prof. Michela Luzi - [michela.luzi@unicusano.it](mailto:michela.luzi@unicusano.it)

Dr. Gianluca Ortolani - [gianluca.ortolani@unicusano.it](mailto:gianluca.ortolani@unicusano.it)

### Prerequisites

**General Sociology**

### Objectives

The Governance and Public Policy course aims to provide students with the tools to analyze and interpret politics and the relationship between society and politics. In this way, students acquire the critical ability to identify the social determinants of the politics in which they themselves participate and can actively shape. The first part of the course explores specific topics in the sociology of political phenomena (power, political participation, public opinion, and trade unions), enabling students to acquire the key insights needed to understand and delve deeper into the workings of politics and its potential social consequences, especially in today's globalized world.

### 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.

By the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of the basic topics of the sociology of political phenomena, with particular reference to the public policies that characterize it and the implementation of the governance process, and will have acquired the ability to identify, describe, and rework them. Furthermore, students will become aware of being part of a socio-political reality, characterized by elements they will be able to recognize, having understood the

importance of political participation as a guarantee for the preservation of democracy and freedom.

## **Syllabus**

*Programme:*

**The course is organized in 4 topics.**

### **Topic 1. Community and participation**

Community and Society. Community and Politics. Max Weber and Power. The Different Types of Power. Power and Potency. Charisma and Leadership. Charismatic Leaders. The Socialization Process. Political Socialization. Political Culture. Political Recruitment. Political Participation. Propaganda. Major Theories. The Media in the Political System.

### **Topic 2. States and the international political system**

Democracy. Citizenship. The people. Causes and effects of globalization on states and individuals. The global international system. International organizations. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the WTO. Open and closed societies. Limits and borders. Global and local. Deregulation. Communication and globalization. The digital divide. Bauman, Sen, Sennet, Stiglitz, Beck, Sassen, Touraine.

### **Topic 3. Governance e territorial capital**

Social capital. From social capital to governance. The meaning of the concept of governance. Government and governance. Hierarchy and bureaucracy. The White Paper. The concept of flexicurity. Model countries. The European Union. European policies supporting flexicurity. Common principles. Social institutions and local development. Development policies and territorial quality. Territory and the systematic nature of actions.

### **Topic 4. Politics and administration in social dynamics**

Security and freedom. Solidarity. The new community. Governing society. Bureaucracy. Rules and sanctions. Policy-making actors. Politics and administration. Classifications of public policies. The phases of policy-making. The social construction of public policies. Public governance. Freedom and gender violence. The right to freedom. Gender and emancipation. Social policies. Political representation. The Global Gender Gap Report. Female representation in parliamentary institutions. The European Parliament. Government depoliticization.

### **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.*