INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS

BACHELOR IN POLITICS, LAW AND ECONOMICS

Professor: MICHELE TESTONI
E-mail: mtestoni@faculty.ie.edu

Academic year: 18-19
Degree course: FIRST
Semester: 1º
Category: BASIC
Number of credits: 6.0
Language: English

PREREQUISITES
There is no mandatory prerequisite. Yet, a daily reading of international news will help students acquire a quicker understanding of the subject and today’s major political debates.

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION
The course introduces students to the main concepts, methods and topics of contemporary political science. It aims to show that politics, like any aspect of social life, can be observed and studied “scientifically”; that is, political reality can be investigated in a systematic way through a comparative methodology, in which actors and phenomena are properly defined and considered in terms of cause-effect relationship, and whose findings can be tested by empirical analysis.

OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS
The course has two goals: to make students acquire the necessary tools to start thinking as political scientists; and, to enable them to have a better understanding of the interdependencies connecting the sphere of politics with the realms of economics and law.

METHODOLOGY
Each session is supposed to proceed through a dynamic interaction between the professor and the students, who are expected to participate actively in class. Students will be engaged with a combination of individual assignments and team works.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching methodology</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>20.0 %</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>20.0 %</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercises</td>
<td>0.0 %</td>
<td>0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group work</td>
<td>20.0 %</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other individual studying</td>
<td>40.0 %</td>
<td>60 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100.0 %</td>
<td>150 hours</td>
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</tbody>
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Published by IE Editorial
PROGRAM

SESSIONS 1 - 2
POLITICS: DEFINITIONS AND ORIGINS

SESSIONS 3 - 4
THE ‘SCIENCE’ OF POLITICS
B.C.: L. Morlino, D. Berg-Schlosser, B. Badie, Political Science, Chapters 1 and 9

SESSIONS 5 - 6
TRADITIONAL vs. CONTEMPORARY PARADIGMS

SESSIONS 7 - 8
SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND POLITICAL CULTURE
B.C.: L. Morlino, D. Berg-Schlosser, B. Badie, Political Science, Chapter 4

SESSIONS 9 - 10
DEMOCRACIES AND DEMOCRATIZATION
B.C.: L. Morlino, D. Berg-Schlosser, B. Badie, Political Science, Chapters 5 and 6

SESSIONS 11 - 12
NON-DEMOCRATIC REGIMES
B.C.: L. Morlino, D. Berg-Schlosser, B. Badie, Political Science, Chapter 7

SESSION 13
MID-TERM EXAM
SESSIONS 14 - 16
GEVERNMENTS AND COALITIONS
B.C.: L. Morlino, D. Berg-Schlosser, B. Badie, Political Science, Chapter 8
B.C.: G. Sartori, Comparative Constitutional Engineering, Chapters 5, 6 and 7

SESSIONS 17 - 18
PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
B.C.: L. Morlino, D. Berg-Schlosser, B. Badie, Political Science, Chapter 10

SESSIONS 19 - 20
ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR
B.C.: L. Morlino, D. Berg-Schlosser, B. Badie, Political Science, Chapter 14
B.C.: G. Sartori, Comparative Constitutional Engineering, Chapters 1, 3 and 4

SESSIONS 21 - 22
PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEMS
B.C.: L. Morlino, D. Berg-Schlosser, B. Badie, Political Science, Chapter 13

SESSIONS 23 - 24
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
R.A.: S.M. Walt, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories, in Foreign Policy, n. 110 (Spring 1998), pp. 29-44

SESSIONS 25 - 26
DEBATE TOPICS: GROUPS 1 & 2
TBA

SESSIONS 27 - 28
DEBATE TOPICS: GROUPS 3 & 4
TBA

SESSIONS 29 - 30
FINAL EXAM
BIBLIOGRAPHY
Compulsory texts:

Recommended for further investigation and research (available in IE library):

EVALUATION CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>The grade reflects how regularly students come to class, their meaningful contribution to class discussion, and their overall conduct. For scaling absences, scarce preparedness, passive participation, recurring side conversation, and any other improper behavior will negatively affect the grade (e.g. sitting quietly behind the laptop will lead to a 4 grade).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>It will be in-class, closed book and comprehensive of the first half of the course. It is scheduled on session 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>15 %</td>
<td>Students will divide in 4 groups, each of which will give an oral presentation on a pre-designated topic. They are scheduled on sessions 25-26 and 27-28.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>It will be in-class, closed book and comprehensive of the entire course. Students who fail to sit the final exam will automatically fail the course. It is scheduled on sessions 29-30.</td>
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</table>
Each student has 4 attempts over two consecutive academic years to pass this course. Dates and location of the final exam will be posted in advance and will not be changed.

- Students must attend at least 70% of the sessions. For students missing more than 9 sessions will automatically fail the class. They will receive a 0.0 on their first and second attempts and go directly to the third one (they will need to enroll in this course the following academic year).
- Students who fail the course in the 1st round of exams are eligible to re-sit in the 2nd examination session.
- Students who are in the 3rd or 4th attempt should contact the professor during the first two weeks of the course.

RETAKE POLICY

Any student whose weighted final grade is below 5 will be required to sit for the retake exam to pass the course (except those not complying with the attendance rules, whom are banned from this possibility). Grading for retakes are subject to the following rules:

- The retakes will consist of a comprehensive exam. The grade will depend only on the performance on this exam; continuous evaluation over the semester will not be taken into account.
- The exam will be designated bearing in mind that the passing grade is 5 and the maximum grade that can be attained is 8 out of 10.
- The third attempt will require students to complete:
  - A written assignment
  - A final exam
- This is also applicable to students who do not have required attendance (e.g. sickness).
- Dates and location of the retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed.

PLAGIARISM / ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism is the dishonest act of presenting another person’s ideas, texts or words as your own. This includes in order of seriousness of the offense:

- providing faulty sources;
- copy-pasting material from your own past assignments (self-plagiarism) without the instructor’s permission;
- copy-pasting material from external sources even while citing them;
- using verbatim translations from sources in other languages without citing them;
- copy-pasting material from external sources without citing them;
- and (vi) buying or commissioning essays from other parties.

IEU students must contact the professor if they don’t know whether the use of a document constitutes plagiarism. The professor will advise the student on how to present said material. All written assignments have to be submitted through Turnitin, which produces a similarity report and detects cases of plagiarism. Professors are required to check each student’s academic work in order to guarantee its originality. If the originality of the academic work is not clear, the professor will contact the student in order to clarify any doubts. In the event that the meeting with the student fails to clarify the originality of the academic work, the professor will inform the Director of the Bachelor Program about the case, who will then decide whether to bring the case forward to the Academic Ethics Committee. Very high similarity scores will be automatically flagged and forwarded to the Academic Ethics Committee. Plagiarism constitutes a very serious offense and may carry penalties ranging from getting a zero for the assignment to expulsion from the university depending on the severity of the case and the number of times the student has committed plagiarism in the past.
PROFESSOR BIO

Professor: MICHELE TESTONI
E-mail: mtestoni@faculty.ie.edu

Dr. Michele Testoni is Adjunct Professor of International Relations at IE University since 2013. He teaches courses in comparative politics, diplomacy and foreign policy, globalization, international history, and international security. Also, he is Affiliated Faculty in the “Transatlantic Relations Initiative” of the IE School of IR.

He holds a PhD in Political Science (University of Florence, Italy), a Master in International Relations (SAIS - Johns Hopkins University, USA), and a Bachelor cum laude in Political Science (University of Bologna, Italy).

His primary research interests include US foreign policy and the evolution of transatlantic security relations in the post-Cold War international system. He has published in several journals, including “European Security” and “Quaderni di Scienza Politica”.

He is member of and the Spanish Association of Political Science and Administration (AECPA) and the Transatlantic Studies Association (TSA), where is also part of the Management Committee.

From 2010 to 2012 he was appointed Associate Fellow at SAIS-Europe, Johns Hopkins University.

You can follow his blog: “Michele Testoni – Mapamundi”

OTHER INFORMATION
Office hours: by appointment.

CODE OF CONDUCT IN CLASS

1. Be on time: Students arriving more than 5 minutes late will be marked as “Absent”.

   Only students that notify in advance in writing that they will be late for a specific session may be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).

2. If applicable, bring your name card and strictly follow the seating chart. It helps faculty members and fellow students learn your names.

3. Do not leave the room during the lecture: Students are not allowed to leave the room during lectures. If a student leaves the room during lectures, he/she will not be allowed to re-enter and, therefore, will be marked as “Absent”.

   Only students that notify that they have a special reason to leave the session early will be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).

4. Do not engage in side conversation. As a sign of respect toward the person presenting the lecture (the teacher as well as fellow students), side conversations are not allowed. If you have a question, raise your hand and ask it. If you do not want to ask it during the lecture, feel free to approach your teacher after class.

   If a student is disrupting the flow of the lecture, he/she will be asked to leave the classroom and, consequently, will be marked as “Absent”.

5. Use your laptop for course-related purposes only. The use of laptops during lectures must be authorized by the professor. The use of Social Media or accessing any type of content not related to the lecture is penalized. The student will be asked to leave the room and, consequently, will be marked as “Absent”.

6. No cellular phones: IE University implements a “Phone-free Classroom” policy and, therefore, the use of phones, tablets, etc. is forbidden inside the classroom. Failing to abide by this rule entails expulsion from the room and will be counted as one absence.

7. Escalation policy: 1/3/5. Items 4, 5, and 6 above entail expulsion from the classroom and the consequent marking of the student as “Absent.” IE University implements an “escalation policy”: The first time a student is asked to leave the room for disciplinary reasons (as per items 4, 5, and 6 above), the student will incur one absence, the second time it will count as three absences, and from the third time onward, any expulsion from the classroom due to disciplinary issues will entail 5 absences.