



Syllabus PhD in Politics

Year of Offer	2024-2025 – first year
Study Course	PhD Research in Politics
Teaching/Module	Theory in Political Science I: Democracy and Representation
Teaching Period	First Semester
Professors	Lorenzo De Sio and Vincenzo Emanuele
Course Year	2024-2025
Field	SPS/04 SCIENZA POLITICA
CFU	5
Total Hours of Frontal Instruction	20

Tipo Testo	Testo in Italiano/Inglese
OBIETTIVI/LEARNING GOALS	<p>The course aims to make students familiar with the problems and dynamics of the process of democratic representation, in terms of its fundamental mechanism of <i>responsiveness</i> governing the relationship between (governing) political parties and citizen preferences. As a result, students will become familiar with classic and contemporary political science approaches to voting behavior and party competition, allowing them to properly understand the dynamics of (lack of) political responsiveness, and to develop research in these fields.</p>
	<p>Conoscenza e comprensione/ knowledge and understanding:</p>
	<p>Capacità di applicare conoscenza e comprensione/ applying knowledge and understanding:</p>
RISULTATI DI APPRENDIMENTO ATTESI/ INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES	<p>Autonomia di giudizio/ making judgements:</p>
	<p>Abilità comunicative/ communication skills:</p>
	<p>Capacità di apprendimento/ learning skills:</p>
Prerequisiti / Entry Requirements	N/A
Contenuti Del Corso / Course Content	<p>The course presents a political science (i.e. non-normative, and empirically-oriented) perspective on democracy and representation. In particular, the course focuses closely on the process of representation that ensures that democratic regimes provide the policy responsiveness that is at the core of the definition of democracy. Based on the identification of key actors such as parties and voters, the course analyses the action and interaction of these actors: how it led to the birth of mass democracy, what are the main dynamics involved (and how changes in such dynamics inevitably lead to changes in how democracy works), and what challenges to these interactions are leading to crisis and change in democracy. The whole course will be given in 20 hours allocated in classes. Every meeting is structured in three sections: introduction by the instructor, discussion of the readings, general discussion. In every seminar session, all readings are compulsory for all students. Each reading will be presented by a student in a short (10-12 minutes) presentation based on a single-slide “poster”. A final paper is requested. The topic will be agreed with the instructors.</p>



Session 1 (VE): The advent of mass democracy: three theories compared

Boix, C. and Stokes, S. C. (2003) 'Endogenous democratization' *World Politics*, 55(4), 517-549.

Samuels, D. J. and Thomson, H. (2021) 'Lord, peasant... and tractor? Agricultural mechanization, Moore's thesis, and the emergence of democracy', *Perspectives on Politics*, 19(3), 739-753.

Aidt, T. S. and Jensen, P. S. (2014) 'Workers of the world, unite! Franchise extensions and the threat of revolution in Europe, 1820–1938'. *European Economic Review*, 72, 52-75.

Suggested readings (summarized in class):

Dahl, R.A. (1971), *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*, New Haven, Yale University Press (only pages 1-5).

Mair, Peter (2013), *Ruling the void: The hollowing-out of Western democracy*, Verso. Chapter 2: The challenge to party government, only pages 22-27 (PDF page numbering).

Session 2 (VE): The working of mass democracy: cleavage structures, then and now

Lipset, S.M. and Rokkan, S. (1967), *Cleavage Structures, Party Systems and Voter Alignments: An Introduction*, in S.M. Lipset and S. Rokkan (eds.), *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspectives*, New York, The Free Press, pp. 13-23 and 33-46.

Bartolini, Stefano, and Peter Mair (2007[1990]) *Identity, Competition, and Electoral Availability*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [only pp. 198-204 'The concept of cleavage'] + Franklin, M. N. (1992), 'The decline of cleavage politics', in M. Franklin, T. Mackie, and H. Valen (eds.) *Electoral change: Responses to evolving social and attitudinal structures in Western countries*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, only pp. 383-400.

Hooghe, L. and Marks, G. (2018). Cleavage theory meets Europe's crises: Lipset, Rokkan, and the transnational cleavage. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25(1), 109-135.

Session 3 (VE) The working of mass democracy: political parties and their transformations

Duverger, M. (1954), *Political parties*, London, Methuen, pp. 17-39.

Kirchheimer, O. (1966). The transformation of the Western European party systems. *Political parties and political development*, 6, 177-200.

Katz, R.S. and Mair, P. (1995), *Changing Models of Party Organizations and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party*, in "Party Politics", vol. 1, pp. 5-28.

Session 4 (VE) The working of democracy: "classic" models of voters and parties

Lazarsfeld, Berelson, and Gaudet (1944), *The People's Choice: How the voter makes up his mind in a presidential campaign*, Columbia University Press. Chapter 3: Social Differences between Democrats and Republicans, pp. 16-27

Campbell, A., Converse, P.E., Miller, W.E. and Stokes, D. (1960), *The American Voter*, New York, Wiley, chs. 6 and 7.

Downs, A. (1957), *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, New York, Harper, ch. 8.

Grofman, B. (2004), *Downs and Two-Party Convergence*, *Annual Review of Political Science*, 7: 25-46.

Session 5 (LDS): Beyond Downsian theory

Stokes, Donald E. (1963), *Spatial models of party competition*, *American Political Science Review* 57(2): 368-377.

Fuchs, D. and Klingemann, H.-D. (1990), *The Left-Right Schema*, in M.K Jennings. and J.W. van Deth (eds.), *Continuities in Political Action*, Berlin/New York, De Gruyter, pp. 203-234.

Budge I., and Farlie D. J. (1983). *Explaining and predicting elections: Issue effects and party strategies in 23 democracies*, ch. 2 (pp. 21-56). London: Allen & Unwin.

Session 6 (LDS): Issue politics

Petrocik, J. (1996). *Issue Ownership in Presidential Elections, with a 1980 Case Study*, *American Journal of Political Science*, 40(3): 825-850.

Hobolt, S.B. and De Vries, C.E. (2015), *Issue entrepreneurship and multiparty competition*, *Comparative Political Studies* 48(9): 1159–1185.

De Sio, L. (2017) "The Geometry of Party Competition: Parties and Voters in the Issue Space" in *The Routledge Handbook of Elections, Voting Behavior and Public Opinion*.

Session 7 (LDS): Issue Competition in Western Europe

De Sio, L., & Weber, T. (2014). *Issue yield: A model of party strategy in multidimensional space*, *American Political Science Review*, 108(4): 870-885.

D'Alimonte, R., De Sio, L., & Franklin, M. N. (2020). *From issues to goals: a novel conceptualisation, measurement and research design for comprehensive analysis of electoral competition*, *West European Politics*, 43(3): 518-542.



De Sio, L., & Lachat, R. (2020). Making sense of party strategy innovation: challenge to ideology and conflict-mobilisation as dimensions of party competition, *West European Politics*, 43(3): 688-719.

Suggested reading :

De Sio, L., & Weber, T. (2020). Issue yield, campaign communication, and electoral performance: a six-country comparative analysis, *West European Politics*, 43(3): 720-745.

Session 8 (LDS): The crisis of party government or the end of democracy as we know it?

Mair, Peter (2014), Representative versus responsible government. In: Mair P (ed), *On Parties, Party Systems and Democracy*. Colchester: ECPR Press, pp. 581–596.

Rose, Richard (2014), Responsible Party Government in a World of Interdependence, *West European Politics*, 37(2): 253-269

Caramani, Daniele (2017), Will vs. Reason: The Populist and Technocratic Forms of Political Representation and Their Critique to Party Government, *American Political Science Review*, 111(1): 54-67.

Suggested readings:

Manin, B. (1997), *The principles of representative government*, Oxford: OUP. Chapter 6

Mair, Peter (2013), Ruling the void: The hollowing-out of Western democracy, Verso. Chapter 2: The challenge to party government, pp. 45-74.

*Testi Di Riferimento /
Reference Books*

*Metodologie Didattiche/
Teaching Method*

*Modalità di verifica e di
accertamento
dell'apprendimento/
Detailed Description of
Assessment Method*

Attendance: You are expected to attend and actively participate in sessions of the course. In case you cannot attend a particular session for a valid reason (such as illness), please inform the course coordinator via email at the earliest opportunity. In case you do not sufficiently attend meetings, you will be invited to discuss your attendance with the coordinator of the PhD programme (who may determine that you have failed the course and will need to repeat it in the following year).

The course will be assessed based on the following criteria: class attendance and participation (30%); paper presentations (30%); a final written paper with a length of max. 3.000 words. Please contact the course coordinator by in order to agree the question that the paper will need to address. The completed paper will need to be submitted as a pdf document (including a cover page with your name and the word count) no later than Sunday, 22 December 2024. The final course grade will be expressed in thirtieths (/30). A pass mark will be attained with a minimum mark of 18/30, while the maximum mark will be 30/30 *cum laude*.
