

Political Science

Dr Federico Trastulli

Course aims

The course aims to introduce students to the scientific analysis of politics, providing the tools and knowledge necessary for a basic understanding of the functioning and transformation of contemporary political systems. Political science approaches, methods, and theories will be introduced, with extensive use of empirical evidence from scientific research to further explore the key concepts covered in the course.

Course contents

For the course content distribution, the weeks are counted from the first lesson on Thursday, October 16th, to the last lesson on Friday, December 19th:

1. The discipline of political science
2. Democratic regimes
3. Non-democratic regimes
4. Political participation and pluralism
5. Political parties
6. Party systems and political conflict
7. Electoral systems and voting behaviour
8. Public policy
9. Research lab

Exam

Written, multiple-choice questions. A detailed description of the exam structure and evaluation criteria will be provided during the course.

Bibliography

Textbook (required teaching materials): Cotta, M., Della Porta, D., & Morlino, L. (2008). *Scienza politica*. Il Mulino.

Chapter breakdown by week:

1. Chaps. I-III
2. Chap. IV
3. Chap. V
4. Chaps. VII-VIII
5. Chap. IX
6. Chap. IX
7. Chap. XI
8. Chap. XVII

Additional teaching materials (recommended, broken down by week):

1. Verzichelli, L. (Ed.) (2024). *La scienza politica italiana. 50 anni dopo*. Il Mulino.
2. Morlino, L. (2003). *Democrazie e democratizzazioni*. Il Mulino.
3. Cassani, A., & Tomini, L. (2020). Beyond the illiberal trend. Autocratization processes in the 21st century. *Quaderni di scienza politica*, 2-3, 183–206.
4. Angelucci, D., Trastulli, F., & Tuorto, D. (2024). Cronaca di una morte annunciata. La partecipazione elettorale in Italia, 2022. In Chiaramonte, A., & De Sio, L. (Eds.), *Un polo solo: Le elezioni politiche del 2022* (pp. 107–138). Il Mulino.
5. Langsæther, P. E. (2023). *Party Families in Western Europe*. Routledge; Trastulli, F. (2025). Family issues: conceptualizing party family at the issue level. *Italian Political Science Review/Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica*.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/ipo.2025.10065>
6. Chiaramonte, A., & Emanuele, V. (2022). *The deinstitutionalization of Western European party systems*. Palgrave Macmillan; Crulli, M., & Emanuele, V. (2025). Bringing Rokkan into the twenty-first century: the cleavage structure of Western Europe. *Journal of European Public Policy*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2025.2486080>
7. Chiaramonte, A. (2020). An italic obsession: electoral reforms. *Italian Journal of Electoral Studies – QOE-IJES*, 83, 5–16.
8. Capano, G., & Natalini, A. (Eds.) (2020). *Le politiche pubbliche in Italia*. Il Mulino.
9. Emanuele, V., & Trastulli, F. (2025). Left Governmental Power and the Reduction of Inequalities in Western Europe (1871–2020). *Perspectives on Politics*, 23(3), 924–943; Prearo, M., & Trastulli, F. (2025). Double-edged Swords? Party Ideology, Activism, and Visibility in the Careers of Italian LGBT+ Politicians. *Social Politics*.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/sp/jxae035>

Any further reference will be provided during the course.

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