



Code: SPS/11

Credits: 6

Matter: Political Sociology

Main language of instruction: Italian

Other language of instruction: English

Teaching Staff

Head instructor

Prof. Roberto De Rosa - roberto.derosa@unicusano.it

Introduction

1. Objective of the course :

The basic subject matter of political sociology is the relation between politics and society. The basic paradigm in this discipline is the dichotomy between state and civil society. Therefore, sociology of state and problematics of civil society represent the basic starting thematic fields.

Aims of the course is to enable student for synthetic theoretical and analytical thinking about key theoretical issues of relationship of society and politics. Within the framework of the course we compare classic and modern attitudes about issues creating this teaching content. After completion of this course, students are expected to gain deeper understanding of controversies of contemporary state and civil society. Studies of political sociology offer insight in contemporary theories of power, interests, changes and conflicts and therefore enables student for analysis of deep layers of political life. In addition, they gain capacities of explanation of dynamics of social and political processes.

Particular attention will be given to political communication with particular reference to the role and function of political language and propaganda as factors influencing opinion processes and building political identities based on civil society.

In order to allow students a good assimilation of the concepts all the theoretical parts of the course will always be accompanied by an examination of various empirical researches.

Objectives

2. Course Structure:

The course of Sociology of Political Phenomena has the following educational objectives:

1. To illustrate and define the basic concepts of the Political Society: State, Power.
2. Illustrate the fundamental theories on the distribution of power: Elitism, Pluralism, Democracy, Totalitarianism
3. Illustrate the dynamic analysis of political socialization processes, political culture and political participation processes
4. Illustrate the concept of democratic quality and its basic components
5. Illustrate the mechanisms of political communication



Competencies:

Attendance at the course requires passing the introductory courses in General Sociology, furthermore the knowledge of the fundamental concepts of Political Philosophy is could be useful.

On this regard, it would be advisable to review these notions, whereas their knowledge had been distant in time.

Syllabus

3. Programme of the course:

Subject 1. Introduction: Origins of political sociology and basic definition

Sociology and political science; The origins and development of political sociology; The remit of political sociology

Subject 2. The State, Power and Authority

The State And Society; Power, Authority And Legitimacy; The Distribution Of Power;

Subject 3. Political Behaviour and Society

Political Socialisation; Political Participation; Political Recruitment

Subject 4. Political Communication, Public Opinion and Ideology

Political Communication; Public Opinion and Society; Ideology And Society

Subject 5. Revolution, Development and Modernization

The Marxist view of revolution; A non-Marxist view of revolution; Development and Modernizations Theory

Subject 6. Conclusions: Whither Political Sociology?

The globalization of international politics; Regionalism and beyond

Evaluation system and criteria

The expected learning outcomes will be assessed by ascertaining the knowledge of the subject, the ability to apply them, communication skills, the ability to draw conclusions and the capacity for self-learning.

The exam consists in the performance of an oral and / or written test aiming to ascertain the abilities of analysis and re-elaboration of the concepts acquired.

The written part consists in the drafting of a paper on a course topic chosen by the student.

The oral part the oral part of the exam focuses on the discussion of the paper.

Bibliography and resources

4. Materials to consult:

5. _____

6. Recommended bibliography:

Additional texts may be suggested during classes