

# PEI-DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, EUROPEAN POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Academic Year 2016-17

## **Political Science: the State of the Discipline**

Professor Maurizio Cotta

Tuesday: 10-12 am

The course is articulated in two parts. The first part aims at providing an introduction to the main trends in contemporary political science. The second focuses on empirical democratic theory and uses this research area to show how contemporary political science can be translated into practice.

In the first part the course examines the rapid advances of the discipline during the course of the second half of the twentieth century as well as the problems which it had to confront. It is scarcely exaggerated to say that, before 1945, political science was still in a rudimentary state, despite the fact that a number of important 'precursors' had, in the previous centuries, both shown the need to study political activity and begun to do so in what was, however, an "artisanal" manner. Rather suddenly - and in part as a result of the events of the 1930s and 1940s - a burgeoning of ideas occurred after World War 2. From this resulted a breakthrough on the theoretical, methodological and empirical planes: this breakthrough gave political science the basis from which it could become the recognised discipline which it has become to-day.

The burgeoning has taken the form of many books and articles written by what is now a very large community of scholars. Among these, however, a more selective number of publications have constituted the 'beacons' which have directed the work of most of the other political scientists. It is therefore natural that this course should encourage the study of these works as it examines the trends - the 'schools' - which have characterised - and sometimes sharply divided - the discipline.

A list of works which have played such a part - surely not exhaustive, but at any rate including some of the most important studies - is therefore attached to this note.

In the second part the course will discuss some significant developments in the construction of an empirical theory of democracy and show how different strands of political science research (qualitative and quantitative, micro and macro, etc.) have contributed to it.

The course takes place on Tuesdays from 10.00 to 12.00 a.m.

Each session will include one or two short student contributions, typically in the nature of an 'article review'. Students will be expected to write a book review - of about 3 thousand words - to be handed in not later than February 28 and will be evaluated on the basis of their participation in the seminar (50%) and their review (50%).

The list of the books from which students will be able to choose is attached to this note. Anyone who might wish to write a 'review' of a book which is not listed should discuss the matter before December 15.

## **Outline of the course**

### **First Part: Political Science: basic elements of a map.**

I. - October 17: *General introduction. Political science from early beginnings to modern developments. Ancestors, grandfathers and fathers. The rebirth of political science in Europe after World War II.*

II. - October 25: *Politics and its dimensions- Political science problems: micro/macro; short term/long term; quantitative/qualitative; structural/ developmental studies.*

### **November 1 Holiday (lecture moved to Wednesday)**

III. - November 2: *The behavioural revolution and beyond. Goals, achievements, limits.*

IV. - November 8: *Rational choice and game theory: a new political science or one among other paradigms?*

## November 15 No lecture

V. – November 22: *Neo-institutionalism. A new vision of an old theme?*

VI. – November 29: *Constructivism*

## Second Part: Political Science: Democratic Theory Normative and Empirical aspects.

VII. – December 6: *Democratic Theory I: Birth and developments of an empirical theory.*

VIII – December 13: *Democratic Theory II: Concepts and measures. Borders of democracy. Typologies of Democracy. Quality of Democracy*

IX . – December 19: *Democratic Theory III: The macro approach to regime change and stability. New challenges. Democracy: what consequences does it make? Democracy beyond national borders. Course Conclusion*

## Reading list

**I. October 17.** Readings: G. Almond, *Political Science the History of the Discipline*, in R. E. Goodin and H.-D. Klingemann (eds.), *A New Handbook of Political Science*, Oxford Oxford University Press, 1998 pp. 50-96;

Further readings: R.E. Goodin and H.-D. Klingemann, *Political science: the discipline*, in R. E. Goodin and H.-D. Klingemann (Eds.), *A New Handbook of Political Science*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1996, pp. 3-49; J. Blondel, *Amateurs into professionals*, in H. Daalder (ed.), *Comparative European Politics*, London, Cassel, 1997, pp. 115-26.

**II. October 25.** Readings: G. Almond and S. J. Genco, *Clocks, Clouds, and the Study of Politics*, in “World Politics” 29, pp. 489-522; A. Stepan, *Introduction: Reflections on “Problem Selection” in Comparative Politics* in A. Stepan, *Arguing Comparative Politics*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 1-20

**III. November 2 .** Readings: R.A. Dahl, *The Behavioural Approach in Political Science: Epitaph for a Monument to a Successful Protest*, in “American Political Science Review”, (55), 1961, pp. 763-72; E. G. Carmines, R. Huckfeld, *Political Behavior: An Overview*, in R. E. Goodin and H.-D. Klingemann (Eds.), *A New Handbook of Political Science*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1996, 223-54

Further readings: D. Sanders, *Behaviouralism*, in D. Marsh & G. Stoker, *Theory and Methods in Political Science*, Palgrave, 2002, pp. 45-65

**IV. November 8.** Readings: TBA

Further readings: D. Satz and J. Ferejohn, *Rational Choice and Social Theory* in “The Journal of Philosophy”, Vol. 91, 1994, No. 2, pp. 71-87.

**V. November 22.** Readings: J.G. March & J. Olsen, *Rules and the Institutionalization of Action*, in J.G. March & J. Olsen *Rediscovering institutions*, Free Press, 1989, pp. 21-38 ; P. Hall e R. Taylor, *Political science and the three institutionalisms*, in "Political Studies", 1996, pp. 936-57 .

**VI. November 29.** Readings: F. Kratochwil, *Looking back from Somewhere*, “Review of International Studies”, vol. 33 (April 2007), Supplement 1, pp. 25-45.; F. Kratochwil, *Evidence, Inference and Truth as Problems of Theory Building in the Social Sciences*, in R. Lebow, March Lichbach (eds.), *Theory and Evidence in Comparative Politics and International Relations* New York: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2007, chap. 2.

## Second Part: Developments in the empirical theory of democracy

**VII. December 6.** Readings: J. A. Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy* (5th ed.). London: Allen & Unwin, 1976, pp. 250-283; R. A. Dahl, *Polyarchy. Participation and Opposition*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1971 pp. 1-16; Ph. C. Schmitter and T. L. Karl *What democracy is...and is not* in “Journal of Democracy” (1991) vol. 2, pp. 75-88;

Further readings: G. Sartori *The Theory of Democracy revisited*, vol. 1, ch. 6 *Vertical democracy*, pp.131-181, Chatham: Chatham House 1987; C. Tilly *What is Democracy ?* in C. Tilly, *Democracy*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2007, pp. 1-24.

**VIII. December 13.** Readings: G. L. Munck and J. Verkuilen *Conceptualizing and measuring democracy: evaluating alternative indices* in “Comparative Political Studies” (2002) vol. 35, pp. 5-33. Levitzky and Way, *The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism*, Journal of Democracy Volume 13, Number 2 April 2002, pp. 51- 65; L. Morlino, *Qualities of Democracy: how to analyze them*, SPP 2009. University of Aberdeen.

Further readings: D. Collier and S. Levitsky, *Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research*, in “World Politics” (1997), vol. 49, pp. 430-451; L. J. Diamond (2002) *Thinking About Hybrid Regimes* in “Journal of Democracy” 13, pp. 21-35.

**IX. December 19.** Readings: J. J. Linz and A. Stepan, (eds.8) *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Crisis, Breakdown and Reequilibration*, vol. 1, ch. 2 *Elements of Breakdown*, pp. 14-49, ch. 3 *The Process of Breakdown*, pp. 50-74, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press 1978. G. A. O'Donnell and Ph. C. Schmitter, ch. 4 *Negotiating (and Renegotiating) Pacts* in G. A. O'Donnell and Ph. C. Schmitter (ed), *Transitions From Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies.*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press 1986. C. Boix, *Development and democratization* 2009; C. Boix, *Development and democratization*, 2009, IBEI WP; Diamond, L., *Facing up to the Democratic Recession*, in Journal of democracy, 2014, pp. 141-155.

Further readings; T. Carothers, *The end of the transition paradigm* in “Journal of Democracy” (2002) vol. 13, pp. 5-21. C. Schneider and Ph. Schmitter, *Liberalization, transition and consolidation: measuring the components of democratization* in “Democratization”, vol. 11(2004) , pp. 59 – 90.

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### Some key political science books

G.A. Almond and G.B. Powell, Comparative Politics (1976; new ed., 1978), Boston, Mass: Little, Brown & Co.

G.A. Almond and S. Verba, The Civic Culture (1963), Princeton, N.J.: Princeton UP.

J.M. Buchanan and G. Tullock, The Calculus of Consent (1962), Ann Arbor, MI: U. of Michigan Press.

A. Campbell, P.E. Converse, W.E. Miller, and D.E. Stokes, The American Voter (1960), New York, N.Y.: Wiley.

M. Crozier, The Bureaucratic Phenomenon (1964) London: Tavistock.

R.A. Dahl, Who Governs (1963b) New Haven, Conn: Yale UP.

R.A. Dahl, Polyarchy (1971) New Haven, Conn: Yale UP.

K. Deutsch, The Nerves of Government,(1953) New York: Free Press.

A. Downs, An Economic Theory of Democracy (1957), New York, N.Y.: Harper.

M. Duverger, Political Parties (1954), New York, N.Y.: Wiley.

D. Easton, The Political System (1953) New York, N.Y.: Knopf.

A. O. Hirschman, Exit, Voice and Loyalty (1970), Cambridge, MA: Harvard U.P.

R. Inglehart, The Silent Revolution (1977) Princeton, N.J.: Princeton UP.

H. Lasswell and A. Kaplan, Power and Society: a Framework for Political Inquiry (1950), New Haven: Yale University Press.

- A. Lijphart, The Politics of Accommodation: Pluralism and Democracy in the Netherlands (1975), Berkeley: University of California Press.
- J.J. Linz , The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes (1978), Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press.
- S.M. Lipset and S. Rokkan , eds., Party Systems and Voter Alignments (1967) New York, N.Y.: Free Press.
- J.G. Marsh and J.P. Olsen, Rediscovering Institutions (1989) New York, N.Y.: Free Press.
- B. Moore, Jr, The Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy (1966) Boston, Mass.: Beacon Press.
- M. Olson Jr, The Logic of Collective Action (1971) Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP.
- E. Ostrom, Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action (1990) Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press
- W. Riker, The Theory of Political Coalitions (1962) New Haven, Conn.: Yale UP.
- G. Sartori, Parties and Party Systems: A Framework for Analysis (1976) Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- H.A. Simon, Administrative Behaviour (1957), New York, N.Y.: Free Press.
- K. Waltz, Theory of International Politics (19), New York,:McGraw-Hill.