



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO

DEPARTMENT	Culture e società
ACADEMIC YEAR	2018/2019
BACHELOR'S DEGREE (BSC)	COMMUNICATION SCIENCES FOR MEDIA AND INSTITUTIONS
SUBJECT	HISTORY OF PUBLIC OPINION
TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY	B
AMBIT	50090-Discipline giuridiche, storico-politiche e filosofiche
CODE	19663
SCIENTIFIC SECTOR(S)	SPS/02
HEAD PROFESSOR(S)	MARSALA ROSANNA Professore Associato Univ. di PALERMO
OTHER PROFESSOR(S)	
CREDITS	6
INDIVIDUAL STUDY (Hrs)	110
COURSE ACTIVITY (Hrs)	40
PROPAEDEUTICAL SUBJECTS	
MUTUALIZATION	
YEAR	1
TERM (SEMESTER)	1° semester
ATTENDANCE	Not mandatory
EVALUATION	Out of 30
TEACHER OFFICE HOURS	MARSALA ROSANNA Wednesday 11:00 13:00 Edificio15, piano 6, stanza n.610. Thursday 11:00 13:00 Edificio15, piano 6, stanza n.610.

DOCENTE: Prof.ssa ROSANNA MARSALA

PREREQUISITES	Basic knowledge of History
LEARNING OUTCOMES	<p>Learning outcomes The lectures will allow the students to develop a critical and detailed comprehension of the main guiding principles of Western political thought and the relationship between public opinion and political power. At the end of the course the students will acquire the basic knowledge on the authors dealt with and on themes of the European political tradition, placing them rightly in different historical periods.</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding The study of Western political thought, from its origins to the first half 'of the twentieth century, will allow students to develop skills of analysis and critical interpretation with regard to the past and current, national and international political scenarios.</p> <p>Making judgments At the end of the lessons, the students should be able to interpret texts critically, to relate authors to political theories, and finally to compare them with the political and institutional transformations of Western history.</p> <p>Communication skills At the end of the course, students should be able to use political lexicon, to communicate and write clearly brief considerations on the main issues of modern and contemporary politics, through the analysis of the theories of the main scholars who have contributed to shape Western political thought.</p> <p>Learning skills The theoretical study should give students a certain methodological mastery and learning skills, useful to hold future professional roles in the management of political processes and to the related communication activity.</p>
ASSESSMENT METHODS	The students are evaluated through an oral examination. Each candidate is required to answer open questions on all the subjects covered by the syllabus and the referring bibliography. The examination requires knowledge and comprehension of topics, interpretative competence and autonomy of judgement. The student's preparation will be considered satisfactory if the student is able to recognise historical periods and theoretical issues, and shows valuable skills in exposing topics by using the proper terminology. The candidate receives an assessment out of thirty as final grade (the pass mark is 18/30).
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES	The course aims to analyse the main political theories from the classic age to the first half of the 20th century, by reconstructing the long and complex development of Western political thought. The study of the most significant authors and their historical context, as well as the focus on the fundamental political categories (sovereignty, democracy, equality, representation, freedom, federalism) are thought to give students the cultural background necessary to understand the current political reality. Through the analysis of the thought of the major political thinkers we will also trace a historical excursus of the concept of public opinion from the origins to the most modern theories. It is believed that factors such as popular sovereignty, political equality, the rule of the majority, the emergence of a public sphere have favored the genesis and development of public opinion, and that these elements converge in the idea of democracy. Therefore the two concepts of democracy and public opinion are closely linked. For this reason, during the course the most significant passages, taken from the classical texts of those authors who still represent a reference point in the political debate, are read to students. Particular emphasis will be given to the analysis and theories concerning the origin of society and states, forms of government and their degeneration, the ideal state projects, the problem of justice, the law, the Roman conception of law, problem of passive and active resistance, the relationship between religion and politics, the concept of sovereignty, the modern state, the relationship between power, authority and freedom, the relationship between society 'civil and state, the relationship between politics and history, representation, parties, cosmopolitanism, federalism.
TEACHING METHODS	Lessons even in PowerPoint and reading of anthological texts. Class tests and seminars.
SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	<p>M. D'Addio, Storia delle dottrine politiche, vol. unico, Genova, Ecig, 2002, con esclusione delle pagine: 103-109; 147-168; 181-190; 201-214; 241-257; 333-342; 375-397.</p> <p>M. Lenci, Il Leviatano invisibile, L'opinione pubblica nella storia del pensiero politico, Pisa, edizioni ETS, 2012.</p> <p>Lettura e commento del classico: A. Tocqueville, La democrazia in America, BUR, Milano, 1992.</p> <p>A conclusione di ogni lezione saranno date precise indicazioni bibliografiche sugli argomenti trattati.</p>

SYLLABUS

Hrs	Frontal teaching
4	Presentation of the course and its organization. The Sophists between rhetoric and manipulation. The origins of political thought: Plato and Aristotle.
2	The Roman political experience: the right, the power. Polybius and the mixed constitution. Cicero: the conception of politics, the problem of freedom and the crisis of the Republic.
2	Christianity and politics. Augustine of Hippo and Thomas Aquinas.
2	The middle Ages. Marsilius of Padua: political community and government.
2	The political realism of Machiavelli: effectual truth, the state-power, the moral and political relationship.
2	Jean Bodin: the concept of sovereignty, forms of state and forms of government, the principle of justice.
2	The leviathan state of Thomas Hobbes.
2	The genesis of the modern constitutional state. Liberal Contractualism by John Locke.
4	The Enlightenment political thought. Montesquieu and "The spirit of the laws." Freedom and equality: the democratic state in J J. Rousseau.
2	Federal state and republican democracy. "The Federalist." Burke: the right to autonomy and independence of the American colonies; Crown and Parliament: government, parties, public opinion.
2	Immanuel Kant: the rule of law. Advertising as a mediating principle between politics and morals.
2	Georg W..F Hegel and idealism. Law, morality, ethics. The dialectic of the public sphere.
2	Utopian socialism: Saint-Simon, Owen, Fourier. Scientific socialism: Marx
2	Alexis de Tocqueville and the problem of democracy: the dialectic of liberty-equality, tyranny of the majority and its corrective, individualism.
2	Antonio Rosmini: Constitutional state and despotism of society, parties and public opinion
2	Stuart Mill: representative government and democracy, dialectics of opinions and political participation.
2	Aristocratic radicalism against public opinion: Matthew Arnold, Ernest Renan, Hippolyte Taine. Public opinion becomes the opinion of the crowds: Gustave Le Bon.
2	Public opinion in the 20th century: Walter Lippman, Elisabeth Noelle Neumann, Jürgen Habermas