



Course Title: MEDITERRANEAN POLITICS

Course hours: second semester FRI (10-14)

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Learning outcomes

Students will learn how to apply the analytical tools of Political Science to Euro-Mediterranean Relations. They will be able to understand regional patterns of cooperation, political territorial disputes, regional unbalances, persistent authoritarianism or trends of political change.

Brief course description

In order to understand Euro-Mediterranean relations, this course investigates relations between regional and global actors (in particular EU, USA and Southern Mediterranean Countries), state and non-state actors (e.g. political parties and civil society organizations). It explores the most relevant on-going processes in the Mediterranean area (EMP/UfM, ENP, NATO Mediterranean Dialogue, etc.) and crucial issues such as regional territorial disputes, the lack of democracy, security, terrorism, migration, energy security, maritime security, etc.

Course contents

Module 1: Actors and processes in the Mediterranean area

Module 2: Crucial issues related to political (un)change in the Mediterranean: actors and processes of political change, theoretical and empirical issues related to democracy, particularly based upon country-cases.

Teaching methods

This course has a seminar format. Students are required to actively participate in the class debate.

Module 1 relies upon compulsory lectures. It is conceived as a thorough introduction to the course. Students must read all the related readings and comment them during the class discussion.

Module 2 relies upon students' presentations. Students will illustrate in group (2-3 students) the content of the selected readings with the support of a ppt presentation.

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge on Module 1 is assessed with a written exam. Students' knowledge on Module 2 is assessed by means of an oral presentation. Finally, students will have to write a paper of approximately 6000 words. The paper should focus upon one of the topics tackled during the course, e.g. regional territorial disputes, the lack of democracy, security, terrorism, migration, energy security, maritime security, political processes in the area; etc. The paper has to be delivered at least two weeks before the exam-registration date.

The final evaluation will take into account participation in the class debate (10%); the evaluation of the written test on module 1 (25%); the ppt presentation (25%) and the final written paper (40%).

Compulsory Readings: [available on studium.unict]

MODULE 1: Actors and processes in the Mediterranean area (*compulsory readings*)

- Barbé Esther and Herranz Surrallés Anna (2010), 'Dynamics of Convergence and Differentiation in Euro-Mediterranean Relations: Towards Flexible Region-Building or Fragmentation?', in: *Mediterranean Politics*, 15:2, 129–147.
- Cavatorta Francesco (2015), 'No Democratic Change... and Yet No Authoritarian Continuity: The Inter-paradigm Debate and North Africa After the Uprisings', in: *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 42:1, 135-145.
- Dandashly Assem (2015), 'The EU Response to Regime Change in the Wake of the Arab Revolt: Differential Implementation', in: *Journal of European Integration*, 37:1, 37-56
- Jorgen Moeller and Skaaning Svend-Erik (2013), *The Third Wave: Inside the Numbers*, in "Journal of democracy", vol. 24, n. 4, pp. 97-109.
- Stepan Alfred and Linz Juan J. (2013), 'Democratization theory and the "Arab Spring"', in: *Journal of Democracy*, 24: 2, 15-30.
- Teti Andrea (2012), *The EU's First Response to the 'Arab Spring': A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity*, in "Mediterranean Politics", Vol. 17, No. 3, pp. 266–284.

MODULE 2: Crucial issues related to political change in the Mediterranean

Presentations are based upon readings to be chosen from the chapters contained in:

- Panebianco S. and Rossi R. (eds), *Winds of Democratic Change in the Mediterranean? Processes, Actors and Possible Outcomes*, Rubbettino, Soveria Mannelli.

Plus one or two selected readings from the readings provided via studium.unict focused on the chosen topic.