Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
SP212	Political Theory	4	3	3	0	3	6

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	French
Course Type	Compulsory
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	The course's objective is the comprehensive study of the main themes of political science with theoretical models and approaches that develop different views and tools for analysis.
Content	Various theories in use in political science are integrated into the lesson plan, with particular emphasis on the scientific approach that allowed their development and in a grid format that obeys a logic quite precise: explain the interactions between society and political system through political regulation. The grid of presentation, despite its limitations, has however the advantage of marking the passage of political philosophy to the scientific theory and to locate the various theories ones with respect to others, thereby facilitating the understanding of political science who is too often perceived as an abstract world, confused and without practical value. We must also stress that our efforts of presentation not extend routinely to all political theories, but focuses on the main models in use. For brevity, we chose to present the more traditional or more general theories and neglect the ones on specific issues such as socialization, leadership, bureaucracy, etc.. For each of the theories presented, we will first identify the assumptions or the principles, then we will define the main concepts and arguments used to describe or explain reality and finally we highlight the possibilities and limitations.
References	D. Marsh & P. Furlong, « A Skin, not a Sweater : Ontology and Epistemology in Political Science », in G. Stoker & D. Marsh, Theory and Methods in Political Science, Palgrave Macmillan, 2002. Cours de Jean-Marc Ferry, Professeur ordinaire à l'Université libre de Bruxelles, Epistémologie des sciences politiques, 2005-2006. D. Monière, Introduction aux théories politiques, Québec, Montréal, 1987. G. Burdeau, L'Etat, Paris, Seuil, 1970. Gerald F. Gaus & Chandran Kukathas (eds.), Handbook of Political Theory, Sage, London, 2004. F. Chazel & P. Birnbaum (dir.), Sociologie Politique – Textes, Paris, Armand Colin, 1978. P. Birnbaum (dir.), Le pouvoir politique, Paris, Dalloz, 1975. B. Denni & P. Lecomte, Sociologie du politique, Grenoble, PUG, 1999. Robert E. Goodin & Hans-Dieter Klingemann (eds.), A New Handbook of Political Science, Oxford University Press, New York, 1996. J. S. Dryzek, B. Honig & A. Phillips (eds.), The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory, Oxford University Presse, New York, 2006.

Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	Introduction: the presentation of the course and position of the problems
2	The issue of political reasoning (Location and definition of politics: political regulation - Analysis of politics: method (conceptual frameworks, analytical tools and approaches, assumptions about the scientific method))
3	Ontology and epistemology in political science

Week	Weekly Contents
4	Political theories: status / utility and functions of political theories
5	The organization of political regulation: the place of the State in the political dynamics
6	The classical theories explaining the mechanisms of political regulation (1): Social structures and functions as determinants of politics
7	The classical theories explaining the mechanisms of political regulation (2): A Systems Analysis of Political Life
8	Mid-term exam
9	Inside the black box: Who? What? How? Theories of political power
10	Theories of power elites (1)
11	Theories of power elites (2)
12	Theories of political decision
13	Theories of democracy and democratization
14	Conclusion: The legacy of the past and contemporary trends