



Faculté des sciences économiques, sociales et politiques

ESPO

POLS1121 **Political Sociology**

[30h] 3 credits

Teacher(s): Benoît Rihoux
Language: french
Level: 1st cycle course

Aims

This course expands on the Political Science (I) course: it studies in greater detail the analysis of civil society (introduced in the Political Science (I) course), and more particularly the two principal collective bodies at work in civil society: social movements and political parties. As such, the course complements the Political Science (II) course, a comparative analysis of institutions and political regimes.

The course has two objectives:

" Globally, to help students to develop an analytical capability and a capacity for personal reflection supported by a theoretical and conceptual apparatus (going beyond superficial observation and simple description);

" To help students gain a better understanding of the current socio-political climate and developments in "civil society" in Western societies.

Content and teaching methods

1. Social movements: classic studies

" analysis of the "crowd" and "calamities"/disasters/lynch mobs?

" definitions and typologies

" the organisation of social movements

" militancy

2. Social movements: recent developments

" the "new social movements"

" new phenomena: the "white movement", the alterglobalist movement etc: a new "new social unrest"?

" new forms of militancy

3. The political parties: review

" Definition (s) (review and expansion)

" Typologies, classifications (review and expansion)

4. The political parties: recent developments

" Recent developments - various theses

" Partisan organisations: developments/transformations

" The end of the political parties?

Methods

The course is given principally in the form of lectures, with a small number of interactive sessions (debates, contributions from students in sub-groups, with possible participation of outside contributor).

Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Evaluation: Written examination at the end of the year. The examination consists of a number of closed, open and semi-open questions (max.10 points), and a short essay requiring students to show a broad understanding of the subjects covered in the course (10 points). A qualitative evaluation is also made of the interactive sessions and this is taken into account.

NB: the teachers of the Political science I and Political Science II courses may well work together to evaluate the courses (possibility of joint evaluation, etc).

Course materials: course handout provided

Other credits in programs

HUSO11BA	Première année de bachelier en sciences humaines et sociales	(3 credits)	Mandatory
SOCA11BA	Première année de bachelier en sociologie et anthropologie	(3 credits)	Mandatory
SPOL11BA	Première année de bachelier en sciences politiques	(3 credits)	Mandatory