











5.00 credits

30.0 h

Q1

Teacher(s)	Duez Denis ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Bruxelles Saint-Louis
Prerequisites	<i>The prerequisite(s) for this Teaching Unit (Unité d'enseignement – UE) for the programmes/courses that offer this Teaching Unit are specified at the end of this sheet.</i>
Learning outcomes	<p>At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :</p> <p>The objective of the course is twofold. First, it aims to provide students with basic knowledge of the characteristics and operating methods of the major contemporary political regimes, whether democratic or non-democratic. At the end of the course, the students will have been introduced to the study of institutional aspects, but also to the social and political regimes studied. Second, the course aims to arouse a critical reflection on the ideological and moral foundations that typically underlies the attempts to classify the political regimes.</p>
Evaluation methods	<p>The assessment takes the form of a written examination.</p> <p>The examination aims to verify the student's mastery of the notions and concepts studied during the course. The questions presuppose a very good knowledge and understanding of the subject matter. The student could, for example, be asked to comment on a current topic by adequately mobilizing the concepts, theories or typologies presented during the course. One or more exam questions relate to learning activities (+/- 25% of the final grade).</p> <p>The use of artificial intelligence in the assessment tests for this course is governed by the rules set out in the university Academic regulations and procedures, which is available on the university's website. Unless explicitly instructed otherwise by the course teacher, the use of AI by students is forbidden in assessment tests.</p>
Teaching methods	<p>Course description:</p> <p>The course will present theoretical and empirical works (legal, political and socio-political) on each of the themes. PowerPoint presentations, including the structure of lectures, tables, charts, images and links to videos or websites presented during the course, will be made available in Moodle.</p> <p>Learning activities description:</p> <p>Firstly, students are required to follow political news related to the course topic in a country identified at the beginning of the term. Secondly, students may be invited to attend one or two events (conferences, seminars, etc.) or to follow televised debates, podcasts or webcasts. These events are directly related to the course material. They are identified in due time. These events are offered among the activities organised on the Saint-Louis site, on the sites of other universities or institutions in Brussels, or can be followed remotely by the student. Each event will be introduced in advance by the lecturer during one of the course sessions. The events will be discussed with students during the following session. Thirdly, students may be asked to complete one or more compulsory readings.</p>
Content	<p>The terms "dictatorship", "democracy", "monarchy", "republic" or "totalitarian regime" have today entered everyday language. However, their precise contours are often poorly understood by those who use them. These familiar terms also have a very long history in which merge an effort to describe the political systems they refer to and value judgments on them. For some categories, such as "totalitarianism", their very relevance can be questioned from a political science point of view. The course intends to provide students with a critical analysis of the various types of political regimes, from Plato to the present day, while developing in greater depth some case studies. The first lessons are devoted to a general introduction aimed at clarifying the many definitions of the concept of "political regime" and briefly tracing its genesis. The following lessons are then devoted to liberal democracies. After examining the main electoral systems and party systems, the course takes a closer look at four regimes that can be likened to ideal-types: 1) the presidential system in the United States, 2) the parliamentary system in the United Kingdom, 3) the semi-presidential system in France and 4) rationalised parliamentarism in Germany. The final lessons are devoted to authoritarian and "totalitarian" regimes. In this part of the course, the main ways of analysing authoritarian regimes are presented: populist, Bonapartist, fascist, etc. regimes. Depending on the number of sessions available, the course may focus on a specific case.</p>

Bibliography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almond G., Bingham P., <i>Comparative Politics: A Developmental Approach</i>, Boston, Little, Brown, 1966. • Arendt H., <i>Le système totalitaire. Les origines du totalitarisme</i>, Paris, Seuil, 2005. • Aron, Raymond, <i>Démocratie et totalitarisme</i>, Paris, Gallimard, coll. « Folio », 1987. • Baloge M., <i>La politique en Allemagne</i>, Paris, La Découverte, 2024. • Balzacq T., Baudewyns P., Jamin J., Legrand V., Paye O., Schiffino N., <i>Fondements de science politique</i>, 2e éd., Bruxelles, De Boeck, 2022. • Baehr P., Richter M. (eds), <i>Dictatorship in History and Theory: Bonapartism, Caesarism, and Totalitarianism</i>, Cambridge University Press, 2004. • Brack N., De Waele J.-M., Pilet J.-B., <i>Les démocraties européennes. Institutions, élections et partis politiques</i>, 3ème édition, Paris, A. Colin, 2015. • Braud P., <i>Sociologie politique</i>, 16e édition, Paris, L.G.D.J., 2025. • Brooker, Paul, <i>Non-Democratic Regimes</i>, 3rd ed., Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. • Broszat M., <i>L'Etat hitlérien. L'origine et l'évolution des structures du Troisième Reich</i>, Paris, Fayard/Pluriel, 2012. • Cabestan J.-P. ., <i>Le système politique chinois : un nouvel équilibre autoritaire</i>, Paris, Presses de Sciences po, 2014, 708 p. • Cassani, A., Tomini, L., <i>Autocratization in Post-Cold War Political Regimes. The Reverse Wave Hypothesis</i>, Basingstoke, Palgrave MacMillan, 2019. • Croissant A., Tomini L. (eds), <i>The Routledge Handbook of Autocratization</i>, Abingdon, Routledge, 2024. • Dahl R., <i>Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition</i>, New Haven, Yale University Press, 1971. • Dahl R. (with Shapiro, I.), <i>On Democracy</i>, New Haven, Yale University Press, 2020. • Delwit P., Close C. <i>Introduction à la science politique</i>, Bruxelles, Ed. de l'Université de Bruxelles, 2023. • Friedrich C., Brzezinski Z., <i>Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy</i>, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1965. • Gaxie D., <i>La démocratie représentative</i>, Paris, Montchrestien, 1993. • Gel'man V., <i>Authoritarian Russia, Analysing Post Soviet Regime Changes</i>, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2015. • Gosselin G., Fillion M., Gélinenau, <i>Régimes politiques et sociétés dans le monde</i>, Presses de l'Université Laval, 2017 [accessible en ligne depuis l'UCLouvain]. • Grossman E., Sauger N., <i>Introduction aux systèmes politiques nationaux de l'UE</i>, Bruxelles, De Boeck Université, 2011. • Linz J., <i>Totalitarian and authoritarian regimes</i>, Boulder (Colorado), Lynne Rienner, 2000. • Marques-Pereira B., Garibay D., <i>La politique en Amérique latine : Histoires, institutions et citoyennetés</i>, Paris, Armand Colin, 2011. • Mény Y., Surel Y., <i>Politique comparée. Les démocraties</i>, 8e éd, Paris, Montchrestien, 2009. • Møller J., Skaaning S. E., <i>Democratization and Autocratization in Comparative Perspective. Concepts, Currents, Causes, Consequences, and Challenges</i>, Abingdon, Routledge, 2023 • Morlino L., Berg-Schlosser D. & Badie B., <i>Political Science. A Global Perspective</i>, 1st ed., Los Angeles, SAGE Publications Ltd, 2017. • Quermonne J.-L., <i>Les régimes politiques des pays occidentaux</i>, 5e éd., Seuil, 2006. • Sartori, G., <i>Theory of Democracy Revisited</i>, New York, Chatham House, 1987. • Schnapper P., <i>La politique au Royaume-Uni</i>, Paris, La Découverte, 2022. • Schumpeter J., <i>Capitalisme, socialisme et démocratie</i>, Paris, Bibliothèque historique Payot, 1990.
Faculty or entity in charge	ESPB

Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Learning outcomes
Bachelor in Philosophy	FILB1BA	5	BESPO1162	
Bachelor in History	HISB1BA	5	BESPO1162	
Bachelor in Information and Communication	COMB1BA	5	BESPO1162	
Bachelor in Information and Communication (French-English)	COAB1BA	5	BESPO1165	
Bachelor in Information and Communication (French-Dutch-English)	COTB1BA	5		
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology	SOCB1BA	5	BESPO1162	
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology (French-English)	SOAB1BA	5	BESPO1165	
Bachelor in Sociology and Anthropology (French-Dutch-English)	SOTB1BA	5		
Bachelor in Political Sciences	SPOB1BA	5	BESPO1162	
Bachelor in Political Sciences (French-English)	SPAB1BA	5	BESPO1165	
Bachelor in Political Sciences (French-Dutch-English)	SPTB1BA	5		