Political science: State and democracy

ECTS : 3

Volume horaire : 36

Description du contenu de l'enseignement :

Based principally on the French, British and German cases, the teaching focuses on the institutional framework and the historical evolution of representative government. To this end, the long-term construction of the modern state and its effects on political competition are studied. The conditions for the emergence and consolidation of representative government from the French Revolution to the Third French Republic are then studied. It reviews the reference to the Athenian democratic heritage and its current relevance, the constitution of the "Nation" as a principle of sovereignty, the affirmation of election and representation as mechanisms for the devolution of political responsibilities, the social apprenticeship of universal suffrage, the evolution of the political and social environment surrounding elections, and finally the political professionalization within the institutional framework of the Third French Republic.

Compétence à acquérir :

The teaching of political science aims to introduce students to the study of the political and institutional framework of contemporary societies. The aim is to provide students with the fundamental knowledge (historical and theoretical) and methods of analysis necessary for their understanding. Mastery of the main concepts of political science: power, politics, sovereignty, legitimacy, state, democracy, representative government. Mastery of political science analytical methods: ability to grasp political and institutional issues historically, ability to differentiate the nature of the documents to be analysed (laws, speeches, reports, press articles, scientific articles, etc.), ability to curb spontaneous value judgements on political actors and facts. Understand the particularities of contemporary democracy based on its historical evolution and appreciate, in a reasoned and informed manner, the current situation, differences and changes.

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