

STUDY GUIDE

MEDITERRANEAN POLITICS

Organised by
University of Catania

1. IDENTIFYING DATA.											
• Course Name.	MEDITERRANEAN POLITICS										
• Coordinating University.	University of Catania										
• Partner Universities Involved.											
• Course Field(s).	Political Science										
• Related Study Programme.	Master program in Global Politics and Euro-Mediterranean Relations (GLOPEM)										
• ISCED Code.	0312 Political sciences and civics										
• SDG.	Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that the course relates to: 4) QUALITY EDUCATION 5) GENDER EQUALITY 10) REDUCED INEQUALITIES 16) PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS										
• Study Level.	Master (M)										
• EUNICE Key Competencies	<p>[Indicate the Key Competencies required for the course.]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green – strongly • Orange- moderately • Red – partially • Blank cell - not at all <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Problem solving</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teamworking</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communication</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Self-management</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cognitive flexibility</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Problem solving		Teamworking		Communication		Self-management		Cognitive flexibility	
Problem solving											
Teamworking											
Communication											
Self-management											
Cognitive flexibility											

	Digital competence	
	Technical competence	
	Global intercultural competence	

• Number of ECTS credits allocated.	9 ECTS
• Mode of Delivery.	NORMALLY "onsite". Within EUNICE "Online live"
• Language of Instruction.	The language of instruction is entirely English
• Course Dates.	Early November 2025 – end of January 2026
• Precise Schedule of the Lectures.	Normally 6 hours per week. The official calendar has to be approved before the summer. The academic year 2024-2025 calendar was: Mo-Tue-We 12-2 pm
• Key Words.	Cooperation and conflict in the Mediterranean; Mediterranean security; Mediterranean migration
• Catchy Phrase.	Let's join us to experience the Negotiation Lab on Migration Politics and acquire negotiations' techniques via a hands-on exercise

• Prerequisites and co-requisites.	Elementary concepts of Political Science are required to understand Mediterranean Politics (e.g. cooperation, peace, war, regional crises, democracy, political change, resilient authoritarianism, etc.)
• Number of EUNICE students that can attend the Course.	10
• Course inscription procedure(s).	none

2. CONTACT DETAILS.

• Department.	Dept of Political and Social Sciences
• Name of Lecturer.	Prof. Stefania Panebianco
• E-mail.	stefania.panebianco@unict.it
• Other Lecturers.	//

3. COURSE CONTENT.

This teaching course explores the Mediterranean area and provides the theoretical and analytical tools to explain political processes and understand critical security issues in the area.

In order to explore EU relations with the Southern Neighbors, it investigates relations between regional and global actors, state and non-state actors (e.g. political parties and civil society organizations), transnational actors and International Organizations. The course focuses upon the most relevant cooperation processes in the Mediterranean area, namely EMP/UfM, ENP, democratization (or lack of), and crucial issues such as regional territorial disputes, security (maritime security in particular), migration, terrorism, energy security, etc.

The course includes a Negotiation Lab on Migration Politics that has a hands-on nature. Namely, it helps understanding the complex EU decision-making process concerning migration. The European Union is often said to be distant from EU citizens. This Negotiation Lab boosts interest on the EU migration policy, by zooming into intra-EU institutional and EUMS relations or tensions. This Negotiation Lab seeks to render the decision-making process more tangible and comprehensible to students by exploring the complex negotiations among EUMS in the EU institutions and EU inter-institutional dynamics.

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES.

Students will learn how to apply the analytical tools of Political Science to Euro- Mediterranean Relations. They will be able to understand patterns of cooperation, regional conflicts, territorial disputes, socio-economic unbalances, persistent authoritarianism or perspective trends of political change, security issues and relevant problems in the regional agenda such as migration.

The Negotiation Lab on Migration Politics provides students with the negotiations' techniques acquired via a hands-on exercise.

5. OBJECTIVES.

This teaching course relies upon a combination of traditional lectures and active learning, i.e. presentations in class and simulation of negotiations concerning migration issues.

This seminar format fosters autonomous learning and the elaboration of personal opinions and critical stances on Mediterranean Politics.

6. COURSE ORGANISATION.

UNITS

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Conceptualizing the wider Mediterranean |
| 2. | EU and its neighbors |
| 3. | Regional conflicts |
| 4. | EU borders & (im)mobility |

LEARNING RESOURCES AND TOOLS.

Recommended Academic Journals:
Contemporary Italian Politics
Geopolitics
European Foreign Affairs Review
International Migration Review
International Negotiation
Italian Political Science Review
Journal of Common Market Studies
Journal of European Integration
Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies
Mediterranean Politics

PLANNED LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND TEACHING METHODS.

This teaching course explores the Mediterranean area and provides the theoretical and analytical tools to explain political processes and understand critical security issues in the area.
The Negotiation Lab on Migration Politics has a hands-on nature, namely it helps understanding the complex EU decision-making process concerning migration.

7. ASSESSMENT METHODS, CRITERIA AND PERIOD.

This teaching course adopts a student-centred learning approach. Therefore, students' knowledge is assessed via a continuous evaluation of the students' performance in their different roles: acting as podcaster, paper-presenter, negotiator, or defending the miniessay.
Every week, students provide a resumé (approx. 500 words) and a slide of the assigned compulsory readings to show that they can apply the Political Science theoretical tools, language and approaches. As an alternative, they can produce a podcast on the selected topic and video-project it in class.
The final mini-essay covers one of the topics addressed by the Mediterranean Politics teaching course. Students must choose 1 question out of a list provided by the instructor and must use academic readings.
The final evaluation will take into account class debate, presentations, simulation and the final essay. These tasks will be assessed as follows: participation in the class debate (20%); class presentations (20%); simulations during the negotiation lab (30%) and the final written paper (mini-essay) (30%).

OBSERVATIONS.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEACHING MATERIALS.

WEEK 1: Panebianco S., Conceptualising the Mediterranean Global South: A research agenda on security, borders and human flows, in 'De Europa', 2021, 4: 1, 17-34, available in OPEN ACCESS: <https://ojs.unito.it/index.php/deeuropa/article/view/5514>
 Panebianco, S. (in print), 'The EU governance in the Mediterranean Neighbourhood between Change and Continuity', in Handbook on Governance and the EU (Edward Elgar), edited by Sonia Lucarelli and James Sperling.

WEEK 2: Keukeleire, S., Lecocq, S., and Volpi, F., Decentring Norms in EU Relations with the Southern Neighbourhood, in Journal of Common Market Studies, 2021, 59: 891–908. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.13121>.

WEEK 3: Attinà F., Mediterranean Security and the World Policies. The Overlooked Link, in Panebianco S. (ed.), Border Crises and Human Mobility in the Mediterranean Global South. Challenges to Expanding Borders, Palgrave Macmillan, 2022, pp. 21-42.

WEEK 4: EU official documents to be selected.

WEEK 5: Josua M. & Edel M., The Arab uprisings and the return of repression, in Mediterranean Politics, 2021, 26:5, 586-611. AVAILABLE IN OPEN ACCESS: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2021.1889298>

Panebianco, S., Cannata, G. (2024), 'The Mobility-Democracy Nexus Betrayed: when the European Commission's Talks fall apart in the Mediterranean', in European Foreign Affairs Review, 29 (1), 7-34.

WEEK 6: Grappi G. & Lucarelli S., Bordering power Europe? The mobility-bordering nexus in and by the European Union, in Journal of Contemporary European Studies, 2022, 30:2, 207-219.

Tallis, B. Operationalising the borderscape: making sense of proliferating (in)securities and (im)mobilities, in International Politics, 2022, 59, 410–427. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41311-021-00280-w>

WEEK 7: EU official documents to be selected.

WEEK 8: Freedman, J., Immigration, Refugees and Responses, in Journal of Common Market Studies, 2021, 59: 92–102. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.13258>.

Geddes, A., The Politics of European Union Migration Governance, in Journal of Common Market Studies, 2018, 56: 120–130. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.12763>.

WEEK 9: Alagna F., Civil Society and Municipal Activism Around Migration in the EU: A Multi-Scalar Alliance-Making, Geopolitics, 2024, 29:4, 1245-1271, AVAILABLE IN OPEN ACCESS: <https://doi.org/10.1080/07036337.2023.2209273>

Panebianco S., The Mediterranean Migration Crisis: Humanitarian practices and migration governance in Italy, in 'Contemporary Italian Politics', 2019, vol. 11, n. 4, pp. 386-400.

WEEK 10: Smeets S. & Beach D., 'It is like déjà vu all over again' an inside analysis of the management of EU migration reform, Journal of European Integration, 2023, 45(6), 889–909 AVAILABLE IN OPEN

ACCESS: <https://doi.org/10.1080/07036337.2023.2209273>

WEEK 11: Negotiation Lab on Migration Politics.

