



Badji Mokhtar-Annaba University

Law & Political Sciences Faculty

Political Sciences Department

Level: Third year

Major: Political and Administrative Organizations

Module: English

Responsible of the module: Pr. Benlabidi Moufida

First lecture: Political Terminology (Jargon)

1-Agenda: A list of things to be done or realized by the politician.

2-Activist: A person who takes up a social or political cause and campaigns for it -for example, affordable housing or migrant rights...

3-Anarchy: A society with political and social **disorder** caused by lack of government control and a disregard of the law by citizens.

4-Balance of power: Power held by a small party or group of independent representatives when a major political party needs their support to form a government.

5-Bi-cameral legislature: A law-making body that is divided into a lower and an upper house. In Algeria the Council of Nation is the lower house, and the National Popular Assembly is the upper house.

6-Bi-partisanship: the fact of two political parties that usually oppose each other agreeing or working together.

7-Brown envelope: A term referring to the practice of politicians receiving illegal payments in exchange for political favors.



8-Campaign: Organized actions by individuals and political parties to influence voters' decision-making - for example, public meetings, media coverage and so on...

9-Candidate: Someone who stands for election to a representative office.

10-Checks and balances: A term describing the actions of the three branches of government -the legislature, executive, and judiciary - to monitor (check) each other's work and limit each other's powers (balance) so no branch becomes too powerful.

11-Citizenship: A legal status granted by the State to those who are entitled to it, either by birth, descent or 'naturalization'. Naturalization is when a foreign national is granted citizenship by meeting certain conditions.

12-Civic participation: When people use the freedoms of democracy to do things such as sign a petition, contact their local councilor, vote, stand for election and become informed on issues

13-Coalition government: A government made up of more than one political party because no single party got enough votes to form a government on its own.

14-Civil service: The body of Government workers and officials who advise ministers and carry out the day-to-day work of Government departments.

15-Coalition: A collection of two or more groups or parties who unite, usually to form a government or opposition.

16-Constituency: A specific region where the political representatives are elected by the voters living there.

17-Constitution: A set of governing principles used by an organization, including a country or a state; or the document setting out those principles.

18-Delegate: A person who attends a political or other conference and who has been given the power to represent others and make decisions for them at that conference.

19-Democracy: A society that favors equal rights, fair trials and freedom of speech, and in which people govern themselves (direct democracy) or are governed by elected officials (representative democracy).



20-Demonstration: In political terms, a public show of protest against or sympathy with a particular cause.

21-Devolution: Where the central government of a state passes a law to transfer certain powers to local, regional or national authorities while still keeping the central government's overall authority.

22-Diplomat: A person appointed to represent his country in other countries and to manage its relations with those countries.

23-Dirty politics: Unethical and illegal methods to gain political advantage.

24-Empowerment: Making it possible for people to understand and exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

25-Legislature: The branch of government that makes laws.

26-Executive: is the branch that ensures the law is put into practice. The power to run the State is divided in three - legislative power (make law), executive power (enforce law) and judicial power (apply the law).

27-Judiciary: is the collective term for the judges of a country's courts. The role of the judiciary is to interpret laws and uphold justice by applying the law through the courts.

28-Gender gap: The difference between men and women in types and levels of employment, earnings and educational qualifications among other areas.

29-Franchise: a citizen's right to vote at elections.

30-Nation: A group of people, often united by language or culture, who think of themselves as a community and have, or want to have, their own government.

31-Nationalism: A belief that a large group of people are or should be a nation with its own government and a policy of promoting and supporting the interests of the nation over other nations.

32-Government: A system, involving a group of senior ministers that runs a state and puts the laws into effect.



33-Government department: A group of civil servants, headed by a minister, which is responsible for a specific area of work within a government - for example health or the environment.

34-Head of state: The chief public representative of a country - for example, the President in Algeria and the King in the United Kingdom.

35-Prime Minister: The head of the national government.

36-Policy: A statement of a person's or group's intended action on a matter.

37-Political agenda: A set of issues that are dealt with in politics at a particular time.

38-Ideology: A way of thinking based on a set of connected ideas and beliefs, usually about a political system.

39-Influence: The power to change the behavior of someone or something.

40-Lobby: An organized attempt by individuals or groups to influence decision makers - for example, by writing letters, making proposals or meeting decision makers.

41-Mandate: The authority to represent people's interests and take action on their behalf.

42-Manifesto: A document stating a political party's values, goals and intended actions.

43-Political participation: Voting in a referendum or election and, or, taking part in political activities.

44-Political spectrum: The range of political thoughts, policies and approaches from the right to the left.

45-Politician: A person who is active in politics and holds a political office to which they have been elected.

46-Politics: Activities associated with gaining power and governing a country.

47-Public: A term to describe as a whole the people of a community, state or nation, or a matter that is open to them or concerns them.

48-Public policy: A body of laws, regulations and government action on matters concerning the public.

49-Public interest: The common wellbeing of a society, often considered when debating policies and interpreting and implementing laws.



50-Public servant: A person who works with the civil service, a local authority or other state body.

51-Public services: Services such as education, healthcare, roads and so on that are wholly or partly funded through taxes.

52-Representative democracy: A system of government where voters elect representatives to make decisions for them.

53-Republic: A state that is ruled by elected representatives rather than by a monarch.

54-Revolution: A complete overthrow of a government or political system.

56-Rule of law: A system in which the law applies to and must be obeyed by everyone, including a head of state or a government

57-Separation of powers: A system in which each of the three branches of government - legislature, executive and judiciary -have separate functions and powers and the right to check the activities of the other branches to make sure that none of them becomes too powerful

58-Accountability: A situation in which those in power are held responsible for their decisions. There is a distinction to be made between horizontal and vertical accountability. The former requires a system of checks and balances between the three branches of government. Vertical accountability entails a role for citizens in acting as a limit upon the powers of government.

References List:

1-Kevin Bloor, **Glossary of Key International Relations Terms**, MAY 15 2022<https://www.e-ir.info/2022/05/15/glossary-of-key-international-relations-terms/>

2-Madlen Serban, **Supporting Public Policy Making Through Policy Analysis and Policy Learning**, European Training Foundation, 2015.

3-National Adult Literacy Agency, **An A-Z Guide A Plain English Guide to Political Terms**, National Adult Literacy Agency, Dublin, 2015. www.nala.ie