COURSE DETAIL

THE MEANING OF USEFULNESS IN POLITICS

Country
France

Host Institution
Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po)

Program(s)
Sciences Po Paris

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Political Science

UCEAP Course Number
106

UCEAP Course Suffix
M

UCEAP Official Title
THE MEANING OF USEFULNESS IN POLITICS

UCEAP Transcript Title
USEFULNESS IN POLIT

UCEAP Quarter Units
4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

Being useful appears like a value per se: it would be an absolute, an ideal giving meaning to a life, a job, a public policy, a political project. Usefulness has been defined as a good in itself, and its negative, uselessness, as a criticism that devalues any object, especially any object in the political sphere. In contemporary times, the dividing line between useful and useless has come to be seen as a division between good and evil. But is this axis of division neutral? On what conceptual history does it rest? This course identifies the sources that have fueled the way in which, in a neoliberal context, public interest has become the equivalent of the Public Good, and the useless as the parasite that must be reduced, hunted down, and annihilated. An analysis of the notions of liberalism, neoliberalism and new public management are required for that.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
DHUM 25A38

Host Institution Course Title
THE MEANING OF USEFULNESS IN POLITICS

Host Institution Course Details
https://syllabus.sciencespo.fr/fr/?202420/269302

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Seminar

Host Institution Department
Humanities

Course Last Reviewed
2024-2025

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