

## 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 Campus**

### **Host Institution Faculty**

### **Host Institution Degree**

Seminar

### **Host Institution Department**

Humanities

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