



Teaching Guide

Teaching Guide				
Identifying Data				2021/22
Subject (*)	Comparative Political Systems		Code	615G01202
Study programme	Grao en Socioloxía			
Descriptors				
Cycle	Period	Year	Type	Credits
Graduate	2nd four-month period	Second	Basic training	6
Language	SpanishGalician			
Teaching method	Face-to-face			
Prerequisites				
Department	Socioloxía e Ciencias da Comunicación			
Coordinador	Roman Masedo, Laura	E-mail	laura.roman@udc.es	
Lecturers	Ferrín Pereira, Mónica	E-mail	monica.ferrin.pereira@udc.es	
	Roman Masedo, Laura		laura.roman@udc.es	
Web	http://www.sociologia.udc.es/			
General description	The main objective of this course is to provide basic and relevant knowledge about contemporary political systems, with special emphasis on its current evolution and developing the capacity for comparative analysis. From various models of analysis of the different dimensions (institutions, political processes, political culture, etc.) western democratic regimes will be studied with special attention. Our study also includes the current reality of political regimes of other regions (Latin America, Africa, etc.).			
Contingency plan	1. Modifications to the contents 2. Methodologies *Teaching methodologies that are maintained *Teaching methodologies that are modified 3. Mechanisms for personalized attention to students 4. Modifications in the evaluation *Evaluation observations: 5. Modifications to the bibliography or webgraphy			

Study programme competences

Code	Study programme competences
A10	Introducción a las teorías sobre el poder, la legitimidad y el Estado. Formas de organización política y su evolución histórica, con especial atención a los sistemas contemporáneos.
A17	Conocimientos y habilidades en la búsqueda de información secundaria en las diferentes fuentes (instituciones oficiales, bibliotecas, internet, etc.).
A24	Conocimientos y habilidades en transmitir los conceptos, problemáticas y perspectivas sociológicas.
B1	Capacidad de organización y planificación.
B3	Capacidad de análisis y síntesis.
B5	Capacidad de gestión de la información.
B12	Trabajo en equipo.
B17	Motivación por la calidad.
C4	Desarrollarse para el ejercicio de una ciudadanía abierta, culta, crítica, comprometida, democrática y solidaria, capaz de analizar la realidad, diagnosticar problemas, formular e implantar soluciones basadas en el conocimiento y orientadas al bien común.



Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes	Study programme competences		
Se finalizan con éxito esta materia, os/ as estudantes deberán ser capaces de:	A10		
DESCRIBIR os conceptos básicos para un coñecemento inicial dos temas fundamentais da política comparada.			
Learn and know how to use the main resources for finding information on various secondary sources for the analysis of the different dimensions of current political systems.	A17		
RESUMIR as cuestións candentes do panorama político contemporáneo.	A24		
ORGANIZAR o tempo en función da planificación da materia.		B1	
REPRODUCIR de maneira sintética os contidos elementais da materia.		B3	
MANEXAR de forma ordenada os materiais para elaborar os traballos.		B5	
COLABORAR cos seus compañeiros/ as na elaboración de traballos do curso.		B12	
MOSTRAR interese pola presentación e o contido dos seus traballos.		B17	
EXERCER unha cidadanía crítica e responsable			C4

Contents

Topic	Sub-topic
1. Comparative analysis and political theory	1. The study of politics. 2. The nature and main characters of comparative analysis. 3. Foundations. Aristotle: Politics. Maquiavelo: The Prince. Montesquieu: The Spirit of the Laws. Tocqueville. The Democracy in America. 4. The behaviorist revolution. 5. New approaches. Formulation of theories and empirical analysis. 6. Types of study. Cases and variables. Causality: necessary conditions and sufficient conditions. 7. Classifications and typologies. 8. Resources and on/line sources.
2. Political systems of the world	1. Politics as an independent variable. 2. Systems theory applied to the political analysis. 3. Elements of the political systems: actors, institutions and political cultures. 4. The dynamics of the political system. 5. Extractive and inclusive institutions. 6. Typologies of political systems: democracies, authoritarian regimes and hybrid types. Distribution by geographic areas. 7. Globalization and politics.
3. Authoritarian regimes and hybrid systems	1. Definitions and typologies: dictatorships, traditional and modern authoritarianisms. The totalitarian systems. 2. Methodology and theoretical elements for the study of authoritarian regimes. 3. From authoritarianism to democracy: opening, liberalization and democratization. 4. The Francoist regime and the transition to the democracy in Spain.
4. Democracies. Definition, evolution and requirements	1. Participation and democracy. 2. Direct democracy and representative democracy. Imperative mandate and representative mandate. 3. Historical antecedents. The Athenian democracy. Rome: from civitas to empire. 4. The current democratic systems. The democracy such as method. 6. Requirements: participation, opposition, rights and freedoms. 7. Measurements and degrees of freedom and quality.
5. Majoritarian and consensus democracies	1. Majoritarian versus consensus democracies. 2. The majoritarian model in United Kingdom and New Zealand. 3. The consensual model in Switzerland and Belgium.



6. Party Systems. Two/party and multiparty systems	1. The effective number of parties. 2. Dimensions of the parties conflict. 3. Comparative approach.
7. Electoral Systems	1. The elements of the electoral systems. 2. Majority and proportional models. 3. The electoral system of the United Kingdom. 4. The electoral system of the USA. 5. The electoral system of the French Republic. 6. The electoral system of Spain. 7. The electoral system of the Federal Republic of Germany. 8. The electoral system of the Italian Republic.
8. Executive Power Models	1. Theories of coalitions. 2. Incentives for minority and overwhelming cabinets. 3. Comparative approach.
9. The Executive/Legislative Balance	1. Parliamentary and presidential systems. 2. Separation of powers and checks and balances. The dominance of the executive over the legislature. 3. Comparative approach.
10. The Federal/Unitary Dimension	1. The federal-unitary dimension. Distribution and decentralization of powers. 2. Federal states and his main institutions. 3. Comparative approach. 4. The Spanish decentralized model
11. Parliaments	1. Bicameralism/unicameralism. 2. Varieties of bicameralism. 3. Comparative approach.

Planning				
Methodologies / tests	Competencies	Ordinary class hours	Student's personal work hours	Total hours
Guest lecture / keynote speech	A10	24	0	24
Objective test	A24 B3	2	20	22
Supervised projects	A17 B1 B5 B12 B17 C4	24	70	94
Personalized attention		10	0	10
(*)The information in the planning table is for guidance only and does not take into account the heterogeneity of the students.				

Methodologies	
Methodologies	Description
Guest lecture / keynote speech	Comprender o conxunto de explicacións das profesoras, necesarias para que o/a alumno/a adquira as competencias de Tipo A (relativas á comprensión dos contidos temáticos da materia) e se dote das ferramentas analíticas e das habilidades adecuadas ás competencias Tipo B.
Objective test	Ao final do período lectivo correspondente á materia, cada estudante ten que pasar unha proba escrita na que deberá demostrar o grao de coñecemento e comprensión da materia obxecto de estudo. Contémplase a posibilidade de facer unha proba na metade do período lectivo, sempre dacordo co alumnado.



Supervised projects	Comprenden un conxunto de actividades semanais encamiñadas ao coñecemento práctico das competencias A e B. Trátase por tanto de aplicar as devanditas competencias á análise de materiais de contido político dos que disporá o/a alumno/a antes ou durante o horario de clases. Devanditos materiais poden ser desde textos políticos clásicos ata noticias sobre cuestións políticas de actualidade, pasando por aqueles que permitan a realización de pequenas investigacións. Algúns destes traballos terán que presentarse por escrito e poderán realizarse dentro ou fóra da aula, mentres que a realización doutros requirirá da presenza do/a alumno/a na aula e da súa participación na actividade proposta. A principios do cuadrimestre os/as estudantes disporán dun documento coa explicación pormenorizada das prácticas que se realizarán semanalmente e, máis concretamente, sobre aquelas obxecto de avaliación.
---------------------	---

Personalized attention

Methodologies	Description
Guest lecture / keynote speech Objective test Supervised projects	Personalized attention to the student will be done in relation to the set of activities that the subject includes. This attention will be given to the resolution of doubts that may arise during the conduct of readings, supervised projects and oral presentations.

Assessment

Methodologies	Competencies	Description	Qualification
Guest lecture / keynote speech	A10	Neste caso trátase de valorar a asistencia regular dos/ as estudantes ás clases.	20
Objective test	A24 B3	Trátase dunha proba na que os alumnos haberán de responder por escrito a unha serie de preguntas relacionadas cos contidos do temario da materia.	50
Supervised projects	A17 B1 B5 B12 B17 C4	Trátase da valoración da serie de exercicios descritos máis arriba (véxase apartado de Metodoloxía;) que han de realizarse, ben por escrito, ben asinando unha folla de asistencia aos mesmos. A principio do curso os/as estudantes serán puntualmente informados do tipo de prácticas que han de realizar, como realízalas, e de cales delas serán consideradas para a súa avaliación.	30

Assessment comments



1) Assistance

and participation. Assistance to class is compulsory. The participation will take into account in the final note.

2)

Final Essay. It represents the implementation of the knowledges adquired in this course. Requirements and the main resources of Internet to carry out

the essay are included in Moodle. The essay will be publicly discussed in class. These presentations will start on the second week of April. The delivery of the essay must be send by Moodle in PDF format, before the 14.00

hours of May 20. It can represent until 25% of the final note. 3) Another tasks and readings. To the effects of continuous evaluation they will be controlled by means of face-to-face proofs and multiple choices format proofs. Personal material of support is allowed. Tasks and readings can contribute up to the 15% of the final note. 4) Midterm

exam. It will include subjects treated until the last week of March and it will be done on the first week of April. It contains two parts. The first will be integrated by two batteries of multiple choices and a practical exercise about indexes for the political analysis (effective number of parties, electoral disproportionality, command of the executive, etc.) The second part will include several questions of development. To surpass the examination will be necessary to obtain at least a 5,5 in the first part. 5) Final exam. It takes a systematic similar to the one of the midterm exam. To pass this exam will be necessary to obtain at least a 5,5 in the first part.

The note of the exam can suppose until 70% of the final qualification. To approve this course is necessary pass the final exam.

Second

opportunity: The essays are valid in this announcement. Those that have not be approved will be able to go back them following the indications that will be given by the teacher.

Sources of information

Basic	- LIJPHART, A. (2012). Modelos de democracia. Formas de gobierno y resultados en treinta y seis países. Barcelona, Ariel. - CARAMANI, D. (2017). Comparative Politics. Oxford, Oxford University Press - DURAN CENIT, M., y Inmaculada SZMOLKA VIDA(eds.)A (2015). Política comparada y sistemas políticos: operando con datos e indicadores. Granada, Universidad de Granada - SIAROFF, A. (2019). Comparative European Party Systems. An Analysis of Paliamentary Elections Since 1945. London and New York, Routledge
-------	--



Complementary	- Acemoglu, D. y James A. Robinson (2012). Por qué fracasan los países. Los orígenes del poder, la prosperidad y la pobreza. Barcelona, Deusto - DELGADO, I., P.CHAVARRI Y P. OÑATE (2002). Sistemas de organización política contemporánea. Madrid, UNED. - Gandhi, J. y Rubén Ruíz Rufino (eds.) (2015). Routledge Handbook of Comparative Political Institutions. Oxon, Routledge - Goodin, R. y Hans-Dieter Klingemann (eds.) (2001). Nuevo manual de Ciencia Política. Madrid, Istmo. - Hague, R. y Martin Harrop (2013). Comparative Government and Politics. Hampshire, Macmillan Publishers - HERRON, ERIK S., ROBERT J. PEKKANEN AND MATTHEW S. SHUGART (Eds.) (2018). The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems. New York : Oxford University Press - Landman, T. (2011). Política Comparada. Madrid, Alianza - Meredith, M. (2011). Africa. Una historia de 50 años de independencia. Intermon-Oxfam - O'Neill P.H. (2013). Essentials of Comparative Politics. New York, W.W. Norton - PASQUINO, G. (2004). Sistemas políticos comparados. Francia, Alemania, Gran Bretaña, Italia y Estados Unidos. Buenos Aires, Prometeo - Sánchez Melero, G. (2014). Sistemas políticos en Europa. Valencia, Tirant Lo Blanch - Sánchez de Dios, M. (2012). Política Comparada. Madrid, Síntesis
----------------------	--

Recommendations
Subjects that it is recommended to have taken before
Introduction to Political Science and Management Science/615G01106
Contemporary political and social history/615G01109
Subjects that are recommended to be taken simultaneously
Subjects that continue the syllabus
Other comments
Unha aprendizaxe sustentabel, non sexista e integradora. Nas actividades que se leven a cabo nesta materia respetaranse as normas da sustentabilidade, igualdade de sexos e integración das persoas por razóns físicas, sensoriais, psíquicas ou socioculturais. Sustentabilidade.- A entrega dos traballos documentais realizarase en formato dixital e a través de Moodle. - Cando se empregue papel, aconsellase que sexa reciclado e con formatos de impresión sinxelos e a dobre cara. - Evitarase a impresión innecesaria de borradores.- Non se admitirán traballos con elementos plásticos (portadas, carpetas, etc). Igualdade por razóns de xénero/sexo- Evitaranse actitudes e expresións sexistas e Integración das persoas con problemas por razóns físicas, psíquicas ou socioculturais.- Daraselles o apoio necesario tanto nas actividades programadas como na aprendizaxe en xeral da materia.

(*)The teaching guide is the document in which the URV publishes the information about all its courses. It is a public document and cannot be modified. Only in exceptional cases can it be revised by the competent agent or duly revised so that it is in line with current legislation.