



Teaching Guide

Identifying Data					2024/25
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 Roman Masedo, Laura	E-mail	monica.ferrin.pereira@udc.es 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.).				

Study programme competences / results

Code	Study programme competences / results
A8	Análisis de las transformaciones y evolución de las sociedades contemporáneas.
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.
A15	Conocimientos y habilidades para plantear y desarrollar una investigación aplicada en las diferentes áreas de la sociedad.
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.
B27	Capacidades en reconocer la complejidad de los fenómenos sociales.
C3	Utilizar las herramientas básicas de las tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones (TIC) necesarias para el ejercicio de su profesión y para el aprendizaje a lo largo de su vida.
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 / results	
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.	A15	B3	C3
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	A8	B27	C4

Contents	
Topic	Sub-topic
1. Comparative analysis and political theory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The effective number of parties. 2. Dimensions of the parties conflict. 3. Comparative approach.



7. Electoral Systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Theories of coalitions. 2. Incentives for minority and overwhelming cabinets. 3. Comparative approach.
9. The Executive/Legislative Balance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The federal-unitary dimension. Distribution and decentralization of powers. 2. Federal states and their main institutions. 3. Comparative approach. 4. The Spanish decentralized model
11. Parliaments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bicameralism/unicameralism. 2. Varieties of bicameralism. 3. Comparative approach.

Planning				
Methodologies / tests	Competencies / Results	Teaching hours (in-person & virtual)	Student's personal work hours	Total hours
Guest lecture / keynote speech	A8 A10 B27	24	0	24
Practical test:	A15 A17 B1 B5 B12 B17 C3 C4	24	70	94
Objective test	A24 B3	2	20	22
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	Comprenden o conxunto de explicacións das profesoras, necesarias para que o/a alumno/a adquiera 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.
Practical test:	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.
Objective test	Ao final do periodo lectivo, cada estudante debe realizar dúas probas escritas nas que deberá demostrar o grao de coñecemento e comprensión da materia obxecto de estudo. A principios do cuadrimestre os/as estudantes disporán dun documento coa explicación pormenorizada de cada unha das probas escritas correspondentes a cada parte da materia.



Personalized attention

Methodologies	Description
Guest lecture / keynote speech Objective test Practical test:	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 / Results	Description	Qualification
Objective test	A24 B3	Trátase de dúas probas que os alumnos deberán realizar por escrito, en relación aos contidos do temario da materia.	60
Practical test:	A15 A17 B1 B5 B12 B17 C3 C4	Trátase de dúas probas prácticas nas que os/as estudantes apliquen as competencias adquiridas na análise de materiais de contido político comparado.	40

Assessment comments

<p>Continuous assessment. The final grade of the students is composed by:</p> <p>A) Attendance: 10%. It will be required to sign an attendance sheet.</p> <p>B) Working papers: 30%. Two working papers are due by the students, as established in the instructions provided by the professors. Working papers that do not meet quality standards will not be evaluated.</p> <p>C) Written test/text: 60%. Specific instructions regarding the written test/text will be given at the beginning of the semester.</p> <p>The final grade is the sum of the individual scores for each of these parts, if the written test/text is passed with a minimum score of 1.5/3.</p>
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Sources of information

Basic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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

Igualdade de xénero: -Segundo se recolle nas distintas normativas de aplicación para a docencia universitaria incorporare a perspectiva de xénero nesta materia (usarase linguaxe non sexista, utilizarase bibliografía de autores/as de ambos sexos, propiciarse a intervención en clase de alumnos e alumnas...)-Traballarase para identificar e modificar prexuízos e actitudes sexistas e influirase na contorna para modificalos e fomentar valores de respecto e igualdade.-Deberanse detectar situacións de discriminación por razón de xénero e proporanse accións e medidas para corrixilas.Estudantes a tempo parcial e dispensa académica: - Todos os aspectos relacionados coa ?dispensa académica?, a ?dedicación ao estudo, a ?permanencia? e a ?fraude académica? rexeranse de acordo coa normativa académica vixente da UDC.

(*)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.