



Teaching Guide

Teaching Guide				
Identifying Data				2018/19
Subject (*)	Comparative Political Systems		Code	615G01202
Study programme	Grao en Socioloxia			
Descriptors				
Cycle	Period	Year	Type	Credits
Graduate	2nd four-month period	Second	Basic training	6
Language	Spanish			
Teaching method	Face-to-face			
Prerequisites				
Department	Socioloxía e Ciencias da Comunicación			
Coordinador	Miguez Gonzalez, Santiago	E-mail	santiago.miguez@udc.es	
Lecturers	Miguez Gonzalez, Santiago	E-mail	santiago.miguez@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

Code	Study programme competences
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.).
B3	Capacidad de análisis y síntesis.
B5	Capacidad de gestión de la información.
B12	Trabajo en equipo.
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		
Describe and analyze the different elements that compose the major contemporary political systems.	A10		
Recognize the complexity of the political processes in the current democratic regimes applying appropriate analytical instruments commonly used in studies of political science		B27	
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		
Know how to use properly and critically the information gathered in the main sources of information (library, internet, etc) to carry out a comparative analysis of current political regimes		B5	
Learn to cope with major resources and applications to achieve reliable secondary data	A17		C3
Demostrar un dominio básico dos instrumentos de comparación específicos da ciencia política	A15		
Saber levar a cabo unha análise comparativa das principais institucións políticas dos rexímenes democráticos actuais	A8		



Presentar axeitadamente un traballo de análise comparado realizado individualmente ou en grupo		B12	
Saber interpretar a situación actual dos sistemas políticos seguindo unha análise sistemática.		B3	
Recoñecer e saber empregar os principais indicadores que conforman a cultura política			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 their main institutions. 3. Comparative approach. 4. The Spanish decentralized model
11. Parliaments	1. Bicameralism/unicameralism. 2. Varieties of bicameralism. 3. Comparative approach.
12. Constitutions: procedures of amendment and judicial review.	1. Written and no written down constitutions 2. Flexible and rigid constitutions. 3. Judicial review. 4. Constitutional rigidity and judicial review. 5. Comparative approach.

Planning				
Methodologies / tests	Competencies	Ordinary class hours	Student's personal work hours	Total hours
Guest lecture / keynote speech	A8 A10 A17 C4	43	0	43
Objective test	A8 A10 B3 B27	5	60	65
Supervised projects	A15 A17 B3 B5 B12 C3	9	25	34
Oral presentation	A8 A10 A17 B3	5	0	5
Personalized attention		3	0	3
(*)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	Exposición impartida polo profesor/a baseada no uso da palabra e apoiada en materiais gráficos e resumos informativos.
Objective test	Proba escrita utilizada para a avaliación do aprendizaxe.
Supervised projects	Metodoloxía deseñada para promover a aprendizaxe autónoma dos estudantes, baixo a tutela do profesor. Constitúe unha opción baseada na asunción polos estudantes da responsabilidade sobre a súa aprendizaxe. Consistirá na presentación dun traballo escrito de extensión non superior a quince páxinas de texto pero que poderá incluír anexos con datos, taboas, figuras, etc sen límites de extensión.
Oral presentation	Complemento obrigatorio do traballo tutelado consistirá na presentación oral do traballo tutelado na aula.

Personalized attention	
Methodologies	Description
Supervised projects Oral presentation	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	A8 A10 A17 C4	A asistencia ás sesións maxistras considérase unha actividade obrigatoria que computará a efectos de avaliación	5
Objective test	A8 A10 B3 B27	Proba de avaliación global sobre os contidos da materia que se realizará ao final do curso	65
Supervised projects	A15 A17 B3 B5 B12 C3	Traballos escritos realizados de forma individual ou en grupo adicados a analizar aspectos relevantes dos sistemas políticos obxecto de estudo e presentados cunha metodoloxía comparativa	25
Oral presentation	A8 A10 A17 B3	Consistirá na presentación pública en clase do traballo de fin de curso así como de cuestións de actualidade relacionadas cos contidos da materia (partidos, eleccións, etc.)	5

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. (2000). 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



Complementary	- Acemoglu, D. y James A. Robinson (2012). Por qué fracasan los países. Los orígenes del poder, la prosperidad y la pobreza. Barcelona, Deusto - ALCÁNTARA M. (ed.) (2000). Sistemas políticos de América Latina. Madrid, Tecnos. - 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 - 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
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Recommendations

Subjects that it is recommended to have taken before

Statistics Applied to the social sciences 1/615G01101

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

(*)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.