



## Teaching Guide

| Teaching Guide      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |                        |           |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|-----------|
| Identifying Data    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |                        | 2020/21   |
| 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.). |        |                        |           |
| Contingency plan    | 1. Modifications to the contents<br><br>2. Methodologies<br>*Teaching methodologies that are maintained<br><br>*Teaching methodologies that are modified<br><br>3. Mechanisms for personalized attention to students<br><br>4. Modifications in the evaluation<br><br>*Evaluation observations:<br><br>5. Modifications to the bibliography or webgraphy                                                                                                                                                                             |        |                        |           |

## 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. |



|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| 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.<br>2. The nature and main characters of comparative analysis.<br>3. Foundations. Aristotle: Politics. Maquiavelo: The Prince. Montesquieu: The Spirit of the Laws. Tocqueville. The Democracy in America.<br>4. The behaviorist revolution.<br>5. New approaches. Formulation of theories and empirical analysis.<br>6. Types of study. Cases and variables. Causality: necessary conditions and sufficient conditions.<br>7. Classifications and typologies.<br>8. Resources and on/line sources. |
| 2. Political systems of the world            | 1. Politics as an independent variable.<br>2. Systems theory applied to the political analysis.<br>3. Elements of the political systems: actors, institutions and political cultures.<br>4. The dynamics of the political system.<br>5. Extractive and inclusive institutions.<br>6. Typologies of political systems: democracies, authoritarian regimes and hybrid types. Distribution by geographic areas.<br>7. Globalization and politics.                                                                               |
| 3. Authoritarian regimes and hybrid systems  | 1. Definitions and typologies: dictatorships, traditional and modern authoritarianisms. The totalitarian systems.<br>2. Methodology and theoretical elements for the study of authoritarian regimes.<br>3. From authoritarianism to democracy: opening, liberalization and democratization.<br>4. The Francoist regime and the transition to the democracy in Spain.                                                                                                                                                         |



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|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. Democracies. Definition, evolution and requirements          | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participation and democracy.</li> <li>2. Direct democracy and representative democracy. Imperative mandate and representative mandate.</li> <li>3. Historical antecedents. The Athenian democracy. Rome: from civitas to empire.</li> <li>4. The current democratic systems. The democracy such as method.</li> <li>6. Requirements: participation, opposition, rights and freedoms.</li> <li>7. Measurements and degrees of freedom and quality.</li> </ol> |
| 5. Majoritarian and consensus democracies                       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Majoritarian versus consensus democracies.</li> <li>2. The majoritarian model in United Kingdom and New Zealand.</li> <li>3. The consensual model in Switzerland and Belgium.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 6. Party Systems. Two/party and multiparty systems              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The effective number of parties.</li> <li>2. Dimensions of the parties conflict.</li> <li>3. Comparative approach.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 7. Electoral Systems                                            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The elements of the electoral systems.</li> <li>2. Majority and proportional models.</li> <li>3. The electoral system of the United Kingdom.</li> <li>4. The electoral system of the USA.</li> <li>5. The electoral system of the French Republic.</li> <li>6. The electoral system of Spain.</li> <li>7. The electoral system of the Federal Republic of Germany.</li> <li>8. The electoral system of the Italian Republic.</li> </ol>                      |
| 8. Executive Power Models                                       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Theories of coalitions.</li> <li>2. Incentives for minority and overwhelming cabinets.</li> <li>3. Comparative approach.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9. The Executive/Legislative Balance                            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parliamentary and presidential systems.</li> <li>2. Separation of powers and checks and balances. The dominance of the executive over the legislature.</li> <li>3. Comparative approach.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10. The Federal/Unitary Dimension                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The federal-unitary dimension. Distribution and decentralization of powers.</li> <li>2. Federal states and his main institutions.</li> <li>3. Comparative approach.</li> <li>4. The Spanish decentralized model</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 11. Parliaments                                                 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bicameralism/unicameralism.</li> <li>2. Varieties of bicameralism.</li> <li>3. Comparative approach.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12. Constitutions: procedures of amendment and judicial review. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Written and no written down constitutions</li> <li>2. Flexible and rigid constitutions.</li> <li>3. Judicial review.</li> <li>4. Constitutional rigidity and judicial review.</li> <li>5. Comparative approach.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Planning                       |                         |                      |                               |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Methodologies / tests          | Competencies            | Ordinary class hours | Student's personal work hours | Total hours |
| Guest lecture / keynote speech | A8 A10 A17 C4           | 40                   | 0                             | 40          |
| Objective test                 | A8 A10 B3 B27           | 5                    | 30                            | 35          |
| Supervised projects            | A15 A17 B3 B5 B12<br>C3 | 12                   | 28                            | 40          |
| Case study                     | A17 B3 B5 C3            | 6                    | 10                            | 16          |
| Workbook                       | B3 B5                   | 6                    | 10                            | 16          |



|                                                                                                                                 |  |   |   |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| 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.<br>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. |
| Case study                     | Análise da información obtida en portais de Internet sobre dereitos políticos, liberdades e actitudes e valores en varios países                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Workbook                       | Lectura de varios textos de autores clásicos e actuais sobre método comparado, formas de estado e institucións políticas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| Personalized attention                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Methodologies                                       | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Objective test<br>Supervised projects<br>Case study | 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 |
| 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<br>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            |
| Workbook            | B3 B5                   | Lectura de varios textos de autores clásicos e actuais sobre método comparado, formas de estado e institucións políticas                                                                   | 5             |
| Case study          | A17 B3 B5 C3            | Análise da información obtida en portais de Internet sobre dereitos políticos, liberdades e actitudes e valores en varios países                                                           | 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 acquired 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 sent 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 been approved will be able to go back them following the indications that will be given by the teacher.

## Sources of information

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Basic</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- LIJPHART, A. (2012). Modelos de democracia. Formas de gobierno y resultados en treinta y seis países. Barcelona, Ariel.</li><li>- CARAMANI, D. (2017). Comparative Politics. Oxford, Oxford University Press</li><li>- DURAN CENIT, M., y Inmaculada SZMOLKA VIDA(eds.)A (2015). Política comparada y sistemas políticos: operando con datos e indicadores. Granada, Universidad de Granada</li><li>- SIAROFF, A. (2019). Comparative European Party Systems. An Analysis of Parliamentary Elections Since 1945. London and New York, Routledge</li></ul> <p>Na plataforma Moodle están disponibles as leccións e materiais complementarios (informes, lecturas, exercicios prácticos, etc.), incluíndo unha exhaustiva relación de sitios web e varios tutoriais para a búsqueda da información necesaria para a preparación dos traballos tutelados e das tarefas de entrega obligatoria.</p> |
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|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Complementary</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Acemoglu, D. y James A. Robinson (2012). Por qué fracasan los países. Los orígenes del poder, la prosperidad y la pobreza. Barcelona, Deusto</li> <li>- DELGADO, I., P.CHAVARRI Y P. OÑATE (2002). Sistemas de organización política contemporánea. Madrid, UNED.</li> <li>- Gandhi, J. y Rubén Ruíz Rufino (eds.) (2015). Routledge Handbook of Comparative Political Institutions. Oxon, Routledge</li> <li>- Goodin, R. y Hans-Dieter Klingemann (eds.) (2001). Nuevo manual de Ciencia Política. Madrid, Istmo.</li> <li>- Hague, R. y Martin Harrop (2013). Comparative Government and Politics. Hampshire, Macmillan Publishers</li> <li>- HERRON, ERIK S., ROBERT J. PEKKANEN AND MATTHEW S. SHUGART (Eds.) (2018). The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems. New York : Oxford University Press</li> <li>- Landman, T. (2011). Política Comparada. Madrid, Alianza</li> <li>- Meredith, M. (2011). Africa. Una historia de 50 años de independencia. Intermon-Oxfam</li> <li>- O'Neill P.H. (2013). Essentials of Comparative Politics. New York, W.W. Norton</li> <li>- PASQUINO, G. (2004). Sistemas políticos comparados. Francia, Alemania, Gran Bretaña, Italia y Estados Unidos. Buenos Aires, Prometeo</li> <li>- Sánchez Melero, G. (2014). Sistemas políticos en Europa. Valencia, Tirant Lo Blanch</li> <li>- Sánchez de Dios, M. (2012). Política Comparada. Madrid, Síntesis</li> </ul> |
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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

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.- Darase 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.