General Information

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<th>Course name</th>
<th>ECTS Credits</th>
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<td>Fundamentals of Political Analysis</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Spring</td>
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Aims

The Subject ‘Fundamentals of Political Analysis’ enables the students to begin to interiorize and work on a series of Degree subjects, along with several of the skills of the First year of the qualification, in addition to ensuring that they gain the skills proper to the subject.

This subject, along with the closely-connected subject of Basic Concepts of Political Science, aims to train students to make a first exploratory approach to political phenomena, which they will do in greater depth in the remaining subjects of the Degree.

Below we identify the skills of the Qualification, First Year and Subject, extracted from the Official Document of the Degree in Political Science and Sociology.

General skills of the subject:

1. Interpret politics as they currently stand and construct a framework for interpreting and analysing current political phenomena
2. Learn about the political system's various structures and interpret how they work in politological terms
3. Identify the features of political system-types and forms of government
4. Identify the main actors, dynamics, interactions and forms of government
5. Describe the features of public policies and sort them into basic classes

Specific skills of the subject (Aims):

1. Be capable of analyzing the interaction between actors, structures and ambient awareness in the understanding of political phenomena
2. Be capable of understanding the differences between traditional, modern and present-day society
3. Understand the autonomous logic of political structures, along with changes to structures due to external pressures or those exerted by actors
4. Distinguish between political parties, interest groups and social movements
5. Understand the importance and influence of social movements as subjects of change
6. Characterize public policies and sort them into basic classes

Contents

1: Framework of analysis: Political phenomena analysis model

2: Ambient awareness: Values of modern society and post-modern society; Identities. Definitions and types of identities; Ideologies. Definitions and types

3: Structures: Tradition, modernity and post-modernity. The evolution of the State as a political process.

4: Actors: Civil Society and its part in political processes; The system’s actors: parties and interest groups; Social movements as agents of social change

5: Results: Collective action and public policies
Evaluation

The subject's methodology is based on the principles of active cooperative learning. Consequently, rather than presenting content, the lecturer will implement dynamics through which the student herself, using various techniques, will develop an inductive logic that will enable her to interiorize cooperatively the subject's fundamental aspects.

To be more specific, the logic of active cooperative learning will be supported by two complementary methodologies. Throughout the whole subject, the acquisition of skills will be through project-based learning. In this connection, the students will have to write an analysis of a particular conflict in which they will identify the central features that explain its development and final outcome (dénouement).

The method of assessing the subject is continuous assessment. The only exceptions that will be accepted are those expressly mentioned in the rules. If a student opts out of continuous assessment, it will be possible to arrange a final exam in which the student will have to do all the exercises done by his fellow students. Specifically, he will have to do in the lecture room each and every one of the assignments done individually and in groups, and on the day of the exam he must hand in an applied project. Students wishing to opt out of continuous assessment must do so prior to the 3rd week in order to be classed as "not submitting work". Unless the student announces beforehand that she is opting out of continuous assessment, the grade will be the one resulting from the marked assignments.