Description and Contextualisation of the Subject Course

The aim of this subject course is to study, from a comparative standpoint, the main features of different political systems selected as cases of special interest (the United Kingdom, the USA, France and Germany). The idea of this is to describe the practical functioning of structures, players and dynamics already dealt with on other subject courses, as well as demonstrating the usefulness of the comparative method in the study of political science. Comparative analysis of complex political systems.

Competencies / Learning outcomes from this subject course

COMPETENCIES

C1. Understanding the main theories and methodological aspects in the comparative study of political systems.

C2. Identifying features and classification of contemporary political systems on the basis of their main organisational and functional features.

C3. Distinguishing the specific features of a series of specific political systems according to their relevance.

C4. Developing the abilities of critical reasoning and argument.

Also, the following transversal competencies of the 4th year of the degree in Political Science and Public Administration will be worked on and assessed:

C5. Understanding the fundamentals of comparative analysis as applied to the study of political systems and transformation of the state and public administration.

C6. Understanding the impact of ideologies, interest groups and political and social movements on the political process, in order to design tools and plans for mediation and to manage conflicting interests in the domestic and international spheres.

Theoretical and practical content

1. Comparative politics and the comparative method.
2. The political system as a product of the historical process.


4. Comparative forms of regional government.

5. Political cultures and subcultures.

6. Comparative party systems.

7. Multidimensional comparison and contemporary empiricism.

**Methodology**

Lectures will be combined with activities, practical work and tasks to be performed in the classroom and at home (reading, discussing videos, debates, presentations etc.). This subject course is primarily lecture-based (5.3 credits), with some practical work (0.7 credits).

**Systems of assessment**

**MIXED SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT**

**SYSTEM OF FINAL ASSESSMENT**

- Marking tools and percentages:
  - WRITTEN EXAMINATION TO BE SAT 50%
  - PRACTICAL WORK (EXERCISES, CASE STUDIES OR PROBLEMS) 20%
  - INDIVIDUAL PAPERS 30%

**Ordinary Session: Guidance and Withdrawal:**

To pass the subject course, students can choose between three different forms of assessment:

1. The assessment will consist of sitting a written examination on the subject matter taught in class (scoring a maximum of 10 out of 10).

2.- Producing a supervised project on a topic proposed by the student, the length of which should be around 7,500 words, including the bibliography. The final mark will take into account the mark for this project (a maximum of 7 points out of 10) and that obtained in an oral examination aimed at assessing the student's knowledge of the subject matter (up to 3 points out of 10). However, to pass the subject course it is essential to pass the oral examination.
Moreover, for the final mark the student's participation in the practical activities run throughout the four-month period will be taken into account (group presentations given in class about topics related to the content of the subject course).

**Extraordinary Session: Guidance and Withdrawal**

The extraordinary session will be assessed through a written examination on the subject matter taught in the class (scoring a maximum of 10 out of 10).