### SUBECT

| ECTS Credits: | 6 |

### DESCRIPTION & CONTEXTUALISATION OF THE SUBJECT

The course concentrates on the concept of political representation and its different meanings, as well as on how political representation has been institutionalised in contemporary democracies. In particular, attention is paid to two cornerstones of said institutionalisation: elections and electoral systems, and political parties.

### COMPETENCIES/LEARNING RESULTS FOR THE SUBJECT

The course is intended to produce the following learning outcomes:

1. Students will be able to understand the historical evolution of the concept of political representation and its various meanings.
2. Students will be able to understand how political representation has been institutionalised in contemporary societies and its current challenges.
3. Students will be able to assess the alternatives to the idea of democratic representation and understand the link between political representation and democracy.
4. Students will be able to understand how electoral systems work, what their constitutive elements are, and their effects.
5. Graduates will be able to understand the representative dimension of political parties, their evolution and conditioning factors.
6. Students will be able to understand the internal organisation of political parties.
7. Graduates will be able to understand the patterns of inter-party competition and the consequences of party systems over the political system.

### THEORETICAL/PRACTICAL CONTENT

**Topics:**

**Theoretical Programme:**

1. The concepts of political representation and representative government
2. The institutionalisation of political representation
3. Key elements of electoral systems
4. Types and effects of electoral systems
5. Political parties
6. Party systems

**Practical Programme:**

1. Political representation—discussion of key texts in the History of Political Thought.
2. Is there a crisis of representation? Presentation of relevant data and class discussion
3. Voting rights in different countries.
4. Gerrymandering—or the manipulation of electoral districts
5. Analysis of electoral results and the effects of different elements of the electoral system on electoral outcomes
6. Elaboration of the statutes of a political party
7. Comparative analysis of party systems

### METHODS

The course amounts to 6 ECTS, i.e. 60 classroom hours—46 of which will be dedicated to the theoretical programme, and 14 to the practical one—and 90 hours of student work.

The course combines:

- Lectures, where the instructor introduces the theoretical programme of the course; yet students are also encouraged to participate by asking questions or responding to them, making comments, providing feedback, and so on.
- Seminars / practical training. These are sessions dedicated to the practical programme, and students will be expected to adopt a more active role in them.
**TYPES OF TEACHING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of teaching</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>GA</th>
<th>GL</th>
<th>GO</th>
<th>GCL</th>
<th>TA</th>
<th>TI</th>
<th>GCA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classroom hours</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours of study outside the classroom</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- M: Lecture
- S: Seminario
- GA: Pract.Class.Work
- GL: Pract.Lab work
- GO: Pract.computer wo
- GCL: Clinical Practice
- TA: Workshop
- TI: Ind. workshop
- GCA: Field workshop

**ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS**

- Continuous assessment system
- Final assessment system

**TOOLS USED & GRADING PERCENTAGES**

- Extended written exam  60%
- Practical work (exercises, case studies & problems set)  20%
- Individual work  20%

**ORDINARY EXAM CALL: GUIDELINES & DECLINING TO SIT**

The course follows a continuous evaluation system that combines three assessment tools:

- Completion of group assignments pertaining to the practical programme of the course (20% of the final mark).
- Writing of a research essay of about 2,500 words on any topic related to the theoretical programme of the course (20% of the final mark). The topic of the essay should be discussed with the lecturer first.
- Written exam, which will consist of four open-ended questions, out of which students are expected to answer three.

Students who do not feel confident about their Spanish skills will be allowed to write the final exam and the research essay in English. As regards the group assignments, ad hoc arrangements will be made depending on each year’s composition of the class and the language skills of the students.

All students have the right to quit the continuous evaluation system and opt for a final assessment system. Those who would like to choose this second option should inform the lecturer in written form about this during the first nine weeks of the semester. Students choosing the final assessment system will be expected to write the same exam as those following the continuous evaluation system (60% of the final mark), and to hand in a research essay similar to the one mentioned above on the date of the exam (20% of the final mark). Besides, on the date of the exam, they are also expected to answer three additional questions / complete three additional assignments related to the practical programme of the course.

**EXTRAORDINARY EXAM CALL: GUIDELINES & DECLINING TO SIT**

The same conditions as the ones described above for the ordinary exam call apply to the retake. Students following the continuous assessment system can resit the final exam, while keeping all their other grades (i.e. the ones of their research essay and group assignments). Students who have opted for the final assessment system are expected to take again a written exam, with three additional questions / exercises pertaining to the practical programme, and hand in a research essay on the date of the exam.

**COMPULSORY MATERIALS**

Compulsory readings will be announced in due course and made available on eGela.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Basic bibliography**

Students who do not feel confident about their Spanish skills are strongly encouraged to read / consult the following materials:


**In-depth bibliography**
Journals

Useful websites

REMARKS