

COURSE GUIDE

2025/26

Faculty323 - Faculty of Social and Communication Sciences

Cycle.

DegreeGPOLIT31 - Bachelor's Degree in Political Science & Public-Sector Managem

YearThird year

COURSE

27198 - Comparative Politics

Credits, ECTS:6

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this subject is to study from a comparative approach the main features of some of the most relevant political systems. We will analyze the role played by structures, actors and political dynamics through comparative methods and applying the knowledge acquired in other subjects and courses. In that regard, we will pay special attention to the United Kingdom, USA, France and Germany. Moreover, we will see the importance of the comparative method as a tool for the study of Political Sciences and the comparison between complex political systems.

We will first see the theoretical and methodological bases of Comparative Politics, explaining the development and debates in between the main perspectives. Afterwards, we will analyze the main examples of traditional or classical political systems. We will identify their main features in order to be able to conduct a comparison between them: on the one hand, we will see the political structure and organising of each of the cases; on the other hand, we will focus on the context in which each political system is created and developed (social environment and system, culture, socio-economics, international relations, etc.). Finally, we will look at the main current comparative research in Political Science in order to see the main analytical frameworks that are used nowadays.

COMPETENCIES/LEARNING RESULTS FOR THE SUBJECT

- C1. To learn about the comparative method in Political Science.
- C2. To learn the main theories and the methodological aspects of comparative politics.
- C3. Characteristics and classification of contemporary political systems based on their main functional and organizational features.
- C4. Distinguishing the specific features of certain political systems chosen in accordance with their relevance.
- C5. Developing capacities of critical reasoning and argumentation.
- C6. To identify different comparative tools and indicators.

Moreover, we will deal with the next transversal competences:

- C7. Understanding the impact of ideologies, pressure groups and social movements in the political process and in internal and international conflicts of states.
- C8. To develop abilities to work in groups.
- C9. To get knowledge about telematic and bibliographical resources about politics and to develop competences to use them.
- C10. To acquire the practical knowledge to design and develop academic texts.
- C11. To design and conduct oral presentations.

Theoretical and Practical Contents

Part I: Comparative politics

- 1. Comparative politics and the comparative method
- 2. Fundamental concepts and institutions in the comparative analysis of political systems.

Part II:

- 3. United Kingdom.
- 4. France.
- 5. United States of America.
- 6. Germany.

TEACHING METHODS

We will combine lectures with activities and different types of exercises (readings, debates, video analysis, presentations etc.). Lectures will entail 5.3 credits whereas exercise will involve 0.7 credits.

Types of teaching

Types of teaching	M	S	GA	GL	GO	GCL	TA	TI	GCA
Hours of face-to-face teaching	53		7						
Horas de Actividad No Presencial del Alumno/a	79,5		10,5						

Legend: M: Lecture-based S: Seminar GA: Applied classroom-based groups
GL: Applied laboratory-based groups GO: Applied computer-based groups GCL: Applied clinical-based groups
TA: Workshop TI: Industrial workshop GCA: Applied fieldwork groups

Evaluation methods

- Continuous evaluation
- End-of-course evaluation

Evaluation tools and percentages of final mark

- Written test, open questions 50%
- Exercises, cases or problem sets 50%

ORDINARY EXAMINATION PERIOD: GUIDELINES AND OPTING OUT

Continuous evaluation:

1. Written test to be taken (%50)
2. Activities and different types of exercises (%50)

In accordance with the article 8.3 of Students Evaluation Regulation, the students who would like to opt out of the continuous evaluation and take the final exam should write to the responsible professor within the first nine weeks since the beginning of the term.

Final evaluation will consist of:

1. Written test to be taken (%50)
2. A test-format exam (%25)
3. Practical exercises (activities, cases) (%25)

In accordance with the article 12.2 of Students Evaluation Regulation, students can opt out of sitting the exam a month before the end of the course. In such a case, students will submit a written resignation to the responsible professor and will get a "not presented" grade.

EXTRAORDINARY EXAMINATION PERIOD: GUIDELINES AND OPTING OUT

Extraordinary evaluation will consist of:

1. Written test to be taken (%50)
2. A test-format exam (%25)
3. Practical exercises (activities, cases) (%25).

MANDATORY MATERIALS

ALMOND, Gabriel y POWELL, Bingham. 2008. Comparative Politics Today. A World View. 9th Edition. New York, Longman. 321 COM
LANDMAN Todd. 2011. Política Comparada. Una introducción a su objeto y métodos de investigación. Madrid, Alianza.
LIJPAHRT, Arend. 2012. Modelos de Democracia. Barcelona: Ariel.
PASQUINO, Gianfranco. 2004. Sistemas Políticos Comparados: Francia, Alemania, Gran Bretaña, Italia y Estados Unidos. Buenos Aires, Bononia University Press. (321PAS)
SARTORI, Giovanni y MORLINO, Leonardo (eds.). 1994. La comparación en las ciencias sociales. Madrid, Alianza. (303 COM)
WATTS, Ronald L. 2006. Sistemas federales comparados. Madrid, Marcial Pons

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic bibliography

AGUILERA DE PRAT, Cesáreo R. y MARTÍNEZ, Rafael. 2000. Sistemas de Gobierno, partidos y territorio. Madrid, Tecnos.

ALCANTARA, Manuel. 1999. Sistemas Políticos de América Latina. Madrid, Tecnos.

BOIX, Carles y STOKES, Susan C. 2007. The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics. New York, Oxford University Press. 321 OXF

CARAMANI, Daniele. 2017. Comparative Politics. New York, Oxford University Press. 321 COM

COLOMER, Josep M. 1995. La Política Europa: Introducción a las instituciones de quince países. Barcelona: Ariel, Barcelona.

DROGUS, Carol Ann y ORVIS, Stephen. 2008. Introducing comparative politics. Concepts and cases in context. CQ Press. (321.01 DRO)

GALLAGHER, Michael, LAVER, Michael y MAIR, Peter. 2006. Representative government in modern Europe. Institutions, parties and governments. Singapore: McGraw-Hill.

MARKS, Gary; HOOGE, Liesbet y SCHAKEL, Arjan J. 2008. Measuring Regional Authority. Regional & Federal Studies, 18 (2): 111-121.

LIJPHART, Arend. 2008. Thinking About Democracy. Power sharing and majority rule in theory and practice. Nueva York: Routledge.

SANCHEZ MEDERO, Gema y SANCHEZ MEDERO, Rubén. 2013. Sistemas políticos en Europa. Valencia, Tirant loBlanch.

SARTORI, Giovanni. 2005. Partidos y sistemas de partidos: Marco para un análisis. Madrid, Alianza. (SBC 329 PAR)

Detailed bibliography

CAVERO, Iñigo y ZAMORA, Tomás. 1996. Los sistemas políticos. Madrid, Universitat.

GARCÍA COTARELO, R., ROMÁN MARUGÁN, P. and MALDONADO GAGO, J., 1993. Sistemas políticos de la Unión Europea: con inclusión de Estados Unidos y Japón. 1 edn. Madrid: Universitat, D.L. 1993.

KRIESI, Hanspeter et al. 2008. West european politics in the age of globalisation: six countries compared. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

McGARRY J. y O'LEARY, B. (2006a): "Consociational Theory, Northern Ireland's Conflict, and its Agreement. Part 1: What Consociationalist Can Learn from Northern Ireland", Government and Opposition, 41 (1): 43-63.

McGARRY J. y O'LEARY, B. (2006b): "Consociational Theory, Northern Ireland's Conflict, and its Agreement 2. What Critics of Consociation Can Learn from Northern Ireland", Government and Opposition, 41 (2): 249-277.

Journals

Comparative Political Studies

European Journal of Political Research

Party Politics

Revista Española de Ciencia Política

West European Politics

Web sites of interest

<http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/>

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion

www.undp.org

<http://www.idea.int/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/>

<http://www.house.gov/>

<http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/>

http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/index.html

https://www.eiu.com/public/topical_report.aspx?campaignid=DemocracyIndex2011

<http://www.electionista.com>

OBSERVATIONS