The politics of crisis management and conflict

Department assigned to the subject: Department of Social Sciences
Coordinating teacher: LOSADA MAESTRE, ROBERTO
Type: Electives ECTS Credits: 3.0
Year: 1 Semester: 2

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE COMPLETED
Political Leadership: Approaches and Models
Political Communication and Government Leadership

COMPETENCES AND SKILLS THAT WILL BE ACQUIRED AND LEARNING RESULTS.
Understanding the sequence pattern of crisis development: pre-crisis stage; triggering event; evolutionary paths, and resolution. Crisis characterization from its particular management requirements and its level of consequences and impacts.
Understanding of the changing dynamics of crisis scenarios: initial disturbance; the role assigned to individuals, groups, organizations, social actors and institutions; victim's care and the recovery process.
Development of leadership skills related to crisis management. Communication procedures and tactics for crisis scenarios. Skills for analyzing making decisions and political responsibility process.
Skills for understanding and learning from real crisis management scenarios: crisis cellule composition and functions; logistic readiness; communication plans; management procedures, tactics for overcoming the crisis and the restoration of normality.
Analytical skills to identify the government and institutional learning process taking place in crisis scenarios: strategic and cultural changes.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME
Definition of crisis: its characteristics, dynamics and types.
Identification of the triggering events: endogenous or exogenous; major risks; natural or man-made disasters; accidents; violent acts; etc.
Alert systems and other procedures to anticipate crisis occurrence.
Crisis dimensions: human factor, mass media, ethics implications, juridical dimension, economic consequences, etc.
Political and institutional crisis dimension.
Actors involved in crisis management: identification and analysis of their activities.
Public leadership and crisis management: the meaning and symbols of leadership in time of crisis.
Resilience and crisis: the elements of individual and social resilience. Policies of recovery and resilience mechanism.
Design of crisis management public policies. Prevention, response and recovery policies.
The politics of crisis: risk and avoiding of blame game.
Learning process from crisis scenarios.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY
We will meet once a week, 1 hour and 30 minutes every session. For the first 60 minutes, the lecturer will give a lecture designed to explain and supplement the readings, followed by class discussion. Students are expected to read at least those materials to which the lecturer gives priority for each session.
There will also be special debate sessions devoted to key issues of the Spanish political system.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM
There will be a final exam that values a 50% of the final grade.
Assistance and participation in class as well as discussion of assigned readings value the additional 50% of the final grade.

% end-of-term-examination: 50
% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...): 50

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY
ALCANTAUD, A. y MAZO, D. “El papel de la comunicación en la gestión de las situaciones de crisis desde las administraciones públicas”, Gestión y Análisis de Políticas Públicas, (nueva época), n. 6, pp. 175-191., 2011

ALLISON, G. T. Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban missile crisis, Little Brown, 1971


BENAVENT, M. “La gestión de crisis, en HERNÁNDEZ, M.A. y MARCÍAS, A., Comunicación corporativa; las relaciones con los medios de comunicación., Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca, 2009

BIRKLAND, T.A. After Disaster: Agenda Setting, Public Policy, and Focusing Events, Georgetown University Press, 1997


BOVENS, M. y ¿IHTART, P. Understanding policy fiascoes, Transaction Publishers, 1996


LOSADA DÍAZ, J.C. Comunicación en la gestión de crisis., UOC, 2010

MARTÍNEZ, J. Crisis que matan, Club Universitario, 2013


SOTO, E., DOLAN, S. y JOHANSEN, O. Decisiones en ambientes de incertidumbre, Deusto, 2005

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY


