Introduction to Politics

Academic Year: (2019 / 2020) **Review date: 04-09-2019**

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: SIMON COSANO, PABLO

Type: Basic Core ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 1 Semester :

Branch of knowledge: Social Sciences and Law

OBJECTIVES

After completing the course the student will be able:

- To become familiar with political reality from a scientific perspective
- To know the main elements and factors, both structural and dynamic, that shape and influence the political process.
- To analyze the structure and functioning of political systems and their interaction with their environment
- To know the main political institutions and the interrelation of these ones with other political system components
- To analyze, in a basic way, the role of different types of political actors.
- To recognize the social, political, cultural and religious diversity of contemporary societies and the relevance and transversality that democratic principles and human rights have in them

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

1. Politics and political power.
2. Forms of political organization. State and State models.
3. Democracies and quality of democracies. Dictatorships
4. Territorial configuration of State structures.
5. Parliaments and political representation.
6. Government and government systems.
7. Values in the political system. Culture and political socialization.
8. The actors of the political system.
9. Political and electoral behavior.
10. Public policies.
11. Challenges of politics in today's wolrd

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Teaching time is distributed according to the following training activities:

- Lectures. It includes case studies that illustrate lectures.
- Written exercises on basic reading program and presentations by student teams
- Other training: specific work on a film; book test; newspaper seminar; structured discussions, etc..

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

- Final exam grade: 6 points. It requires to pass final exam to be taken into consideration class grade

- Classe grade: 4 points

% end-of-term-examination:	60
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):	40

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- CARAMANI, D., ed. Comparative Politics, Oxford University Press, 2017.

- CLARK, W, GOLDER, M.; GOLDER, S. Principles of Comparative Politics, Sage, 3rd. ed., 2017.

- COLOMER, J.M. Science of Politics, Oxford University Press, 2010.

- GARNER, R.; FERDINAND, P.; LAWSON, S. Introduction to Politics, Oxford University Press, 2016.

- ROSKIN, M.G. et al. Political Science. An introduction., Pearson, 14th. ed., 2017.

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- DAHL, R.A. On Democracy, Yale University Press, 2002.

- DAHL, R.A. Modern Political Analysis, Prentice Hall, 7th ed., 1991.

- GOODIN, R.E., ed. The Oxford Handbook of Political Science, Oxford University Press, 2009.

- HAGUE, R.; HARROP, M. Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction, Palgrave MacMillan, 9th ed., 2013.

- LIJPHART, A. Patterns of democracy: government forms and performance in thirty-six countries. , Yale University Press, 2012.

- RANNEY, A. Governing: An Introduction to Political Science, Prentice Hall, 7th. ed., 1996.

- SHIVELY, W. Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science, McGraw Hill, 13th ed., 2012.

- STOKER, G. Why Politics Matter, Palgrave, 2006.