

Academic Year: (2020 / 2021)

Review date: 12-06-2018

Department assigned to the subject:

Coordinating teacher: LORENZO RODRIGUEZ, JAVIER

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 3.0

Year : 1 Semester : 1

OBJECTIVES

- To understand a basic set of concepts and analytical categories in the field of Political Science
- To become familiar with political reality from a scientific perspective
- To know the different state models and contemporary state institutions and structures

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

Unit 1. Politics: Setting the Stage

- What is politics?
- What is it that makes an act political?
- Politics as Making Common Decisions
- Politics as the exercise of power
- Power and Choice
- Politics, policy, polity
- Political Science

Unit 2. The State and Modern Policy

- The Modern State
- Policies of the State
- Economic Policy
- Justice and Effectiveness of public policies

Unit 3. The Citizens and the Regime

- Democracies and non-Democracies
- The coming and going of Democracy
- Democracy and Freedom
- Democracy and Capitalism
- Authoritarian Systems
- Military Governments
- One-party States
- Monarchies and Theocracies

Unit 4. Political Culture and Political Behaviour

- Analysing Political Cultures
- Religion and Political Culture
- Political Socialization
- Media as Agents of Political Socialization
- Social Media and Political Socialization

Unit 5. Political Institutions

- Government
- Parliaments
- Political parties
- Elections
- Interest Groups and Politics
- Social Movements

Unit 6. Globalisation and International Politics

- State-Nation sovereignty
- International Institutions
- The European Union
- UN, NATO, WB, IMF, G-8
- Globalization

Unit 7. Principles of Political Analysis

- Falsifiability

- What makes a statement interesting?
- Causation and Explanation
- Historical explanation
- Empirical analysis

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

- Class participation: Each student is expected to attend class, and significantly contribute to the seminar discussion each week. Participation in class discussion (oral or written) is an essential part of the class.
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- News Workshop: Each week, a group of students (3-5 members), will present a news report related to the topics explained during the theoretical sessions. This report will consist in a short written report and a 15 min presentation during seminar sessions. For this purpose the report should be argumentative (make a point) and should answer the following questions:
 - Brief summary of the news
 - Why do you think is the news related to the topic
 - What is the main subject of the highlight
 - Who is involved in the issue
 - Identify and define main political actors
 - Principal actors¿ statements/positions
 - 2-3 final conclusions
 - Sources used
 - Prepare one question to be discussed by his/her classmates in class.

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Clark, W. R., Golder, M., & Golder, S. N. Principles of comparative politics, CQ Press, 2012
- Donovan, John., Morgan, R., Potholm, C., Weigle, M People, Power & Politics: An Introduction to Political Science. (Third Ed), Auflage: Littlefield Adams Quaterly Paperback., 1993
- Shively, W. Power & Choice: An Introduction to Political Science, McGraw-Hill. 13th Ed., 2012