Comparative Politics

Academic Year: (2021 / 2022) **Review date: 29-06-2021**

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: RIERA SAGRERA, PEDRO

Type: Basic Core ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 1 Semester : 1

Branch of knowledge: Social Sciences and Law

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

None.

OBJECTIVES

Skills related to the development of analytical and critical thinking.
Communication skills and writing skills in carrying out work, case studies and exams.
Public speaking and presentation skills.
Interpersonal skills such as the ability to work in teams or use of the technique of role play.
Knowledge of the methods, theories and some substantive issues in the comparison of political systems.
Ability to link theoretical issues of comparative politics to evidence.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

1. Introduction
- What is comparative politics?
- The substance of comparative politics
- The method of comparative politics
- Evolution of comparative politics

2.Economic development and political regimes
- Introduction
- The Problem
- The seminal study of Lipset: criticisms and new approaches
- Quantitative and qualitative comparisons
- Final remarks

3. Democratization
- Democracies and non-democracies
- Transitions to democracy
- Democratic consolidation?
- The conditions for democracy
- Revisiting theories of democratization

4. Institutional design and democratic performance
- Introduction
- Debates on institutional design: government systems, party systems and electoral systems
- The quality of democracy

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Lectures given by the teacher and activities done by students who will apply the knowledge acquired and develop their skills.

The training activities aim to involve students in the learning process. To this end, the teacher will provide basic knowledge and tools needed to strengthen their analytical ability and encourage their critical spirit.
In this regard, the reading of selected materials and essays written by students will be fundamental. Likewise, the professor will encourage discussions on current topics, presentations and role play so that students expand their communication and interpersonal skills. This will be complemented by screenings

of documentaries / films relating to any matter relevant to the subject. This latter is intended to capture students' interest on issues that sometimes may seem too abstract, without a clear empirical referent.

6 ECTS credits, 150 hours approximately.

Lectures and other activities in class: 42 hours.

Study of the subject by students: 56 hours.
Preparation of presentations and essays by students: 42 hours.
Make-up classes, office hours, hand-in of papers, etc.: 8 hours.
Exam: 2 hours.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Final grades will be computed according the following weigths:

Class Participation	10%
Assignments in the classroom	40%
Final Exam	50%

The final exam must be passed with a minimum of 50% to pass the course.

% end-of-term-examination:	50
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):	50

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Caramani, D. (ed.) Comparative Politics, 4th ed., Oxford University Press, 2017
- Clark, R., M. Golder and S. Golder Principles of Comparative Politics, 3rd. edition, CQ Press, 2017
- David Rueda & Daniel Stegmueller Who Wants What? Redistribution Preferences in Comparative Perspective, CUP, 2020
- G. Bingham Powell Jr. Ideological Representation: Achieved and Astray Elections, Institutions, and the Breakdown of Ideological Congruence in Parliamentary Democracies, CUP, 2019
- Ignacio Sánchez-Cuenca The Historical Roots of Political Violence Revolutionary Terrorism in Affluent Countries, CUP, 2019
- Isabela Mares From Open Secrets to Secret Voting Democratic Electoral Reforms and Voter Autonomy, CUP, 2015
- John D. Huber Exclusion by Elections Inequality, Ethnic Identity, and Democracy, CUP, 2017
- Karen Long Jusko Who Speaks for the Poor? Electoral Geography, Party Entry, and Representation, CUP, 2017
- Michael Albertus Autocracy and Redistribution The Politics of Land Reform, CUP, 2015
- Pedro Riera "Turnout" in Oxford Handbook of Spanish Politics, OUP, 2020
- Pedro Riera "Electoral and Party Systems in Europe" in Routledge Handbook of European Politics, Routledge, 2015
- S. Erdem Aytaç and Susan C. Stokes Why Bother? Rethinking Participation in Elections and Protests, CUP, 2019

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Acemoglu, Daaron y J. Robinson, Why Nations Fail, Crown Publishing Group, 2012.
- Acemoglu, Daron y J. Robinson, Economic origins of dictatorship and democracy, Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Almond, G.A. y G.B. Powell (h), Comparative Politics, revised edition, Little Brown and Co, 1979.
- Blondel, J. (ed.), Introduction to Comparative Government, Littlehampton Book Services Ltd, 1969.
- Huntington, S.P., The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century , University of Oklahoma Press, 1993.
- Levistky, S. y Way, L. A., Competitive Authoritarianism. Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War., Cambridge University Press., 2010.
- Lijphart, A. (ed.), Parliamentary versus presidential government, Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Lijphart, A., Electoral Systems and Party Systems: A Study of Twenty-Seven Democracies, 1945-1990, Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Maravall, J.M., Regimes, Politics, and Markets: Democratization and Economic Change in Southern and Eastern Europe, Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Morlino, L., Changes for Democracy: Actors, Structures and Processes, Oxford University Press, 2012.

- O'Donnell, G., P. Schmitter and L. Whitehead (eds.), Transitions from Authoritarian Rule, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986.
- Przeworski, A., M. E. Alvarez, J. A. Cheibub and F. Limongi, Democracy and development: political institutions and well-being in the world, 1950-1990, Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Schedler, A., The politics of uncertainty, Oxford University Press, 2013.