# uc3m Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

# Geopolitics of Spain and its neighbouring areas

Academic Year: (2021 / 2022) Review date: 01/06/2021 20:33:37

Department assigned to the subject: Humanities: History, Geography and Art Department

Coordinating teacher: GARCIA ALVAREZ, ANTONIO JACOBO

Type: Electives ECTS Credits: 6.0

Year: 1 Semester: 2

#### **OBJECTIVES**

# **General Competences:**

GC1; Ability to understand the main factors involved in geopolitical and strategic analysis

GC2: Ability to understand and analyze from a critical perspective the territorial dimension of the discourses and practices that guide international politics, as well as to contribute to the public debate about them and to deepen the values of democracy, dialogue, tolerance, social and environmental justice and peace.

GC3: Ability to understand and analyze national and international conflicts that have a territorial origin or influence and propose political strategies and instruments that can contribute to their resolution

GC4: Ability to apply the theoretical and methodological knowledge of geopolitical and strategic studies to the analysis and resolution of cases and concrete empirical problems

GC5: Ability to demonstrate critical thinking in the analytical arguments of their own and of others.

GC6: Ability to plan and carry out an autonomous research in the field of geopolitics and strategic studies.

GC7: Ability to communicate and present, in a clear, precise and rigorous manner, geopolitical and strategic reports to both specialized and non-specialized audiences

#### Specific Competences:

SC9 Ability to understand and analyze, from a geopolitical and geostrategic perspective, Spain and its surrounding regions and their interactions

# Learning results:

- -Knowledge of the most important geopolitical and geostrategic elements and themes of Spain and its neighboring regions.
- -Ability to interrelate and synoptically understand the different geopolitical and geostrategic elements and specific phenomena of Spain and its surrounding areas.
- -Ability to apply theories and methodologies of regional analysis of a general or systematic nature to the understanding of particular regional spaces and dynamics.
- -Ability to place and relate the particular geopolitical and geostrategic regional dynamics of Spain and its neighbouring areas with the global geopolitical architecture.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME**

## PART I: INTRODUCTION TO GEOPOLITICAL ANALYSIS OF SPAIN

LESSON 1. Geographical and geopolitical characterization of the Spanish State.

## PART II: INTERNAL GEOPOLITICS OF THE SPANISH STATE

LESSON 2. The making of Spain is political map. A geohistorical synthesis.

LESSON 3. Organization and functioning of the ¿State of Autonomies ¿.

LESSON 4. Main tensions and internal geopolitical conflicts

LESSON 5. The Spanish borders and boundaries: delimitation and conflicts.

# PART III: FOREIGN GEOPOLITICS AND GEOSTRATEGY. A REGIONAL APPROACH

LESSON 6. Spain in international geopolitics: strengths, weaknesses and main interests. Soanish presence abroad.

- LESSON 7. The Transatlantic dimension. Spain in the NATO.
- LESSON 8. The European dimension. Spain in the EU and in the OSCE.
- LESSON 9. Mediterranean dimension and relationships with Africa and the Arab world.
- LESSON 10. Relations with Ibero-America and other geopolitical regions.

# PART IV: GEOPOLITICAL THREATS, RISKS AND CHALLENGES

LESSON 11. Threats and risks to national security. General overview and case analysis.

#### LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

## Learning Activities

- -Theoretical classes
- -Theoretical and practical classes
- -Tutorials
- -Group work
- -Student's individual work
- -Final evaluation paper.

### **Teaching Methodologies**

- -Classroom lectures by the teacher with the support of computer and audiovisual media, in which the main concepts of the subject are developed and the bibliography is provided to complement the students' learning.
- -Critical reading of texts recommended by the teacher of the subject: press articles, reports, manuals and/or academic articles, either for their later discussion in class, or to extend and consolidate the knowledge of the subject.
- -Solving practical cases, problems, etc. raised by the teacher individually or in groups.
- -Presentation and discussion in class, under the moderation of the teacher, of topics related to the content of the subject, as well as practical cases.
- -Preparation of papers and reports, individually or in groups.

Tutorials will be carried out through the procedures established by the university.

#### ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

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

- Classroom attendance and participation: 20 % of the course grade.
- -Continuous assessment assignments: 30% of the course grade
- -Term paper: 50% of the course grade.

## **BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- LÓPEZ GARCÍA, B; HERNANDO, M., coords. España, el Mediterráneo y el mundo arabomusulmán, Icaria, 2011
- ARENAL, C. Política exterior de España y relaciones con América Latina, Fundación Carolina-Siglo XXI, 2011
- BALLESTEROS, M.A. En busca de una estrategia de seguridad nacional, Ministerio de Defensa, 2016
- BALLESTEROS, M.A. Yihadismo, La Huerta Grande, 2016
- BARON, N.; LOYER, B. L¿Espagne en crise. Une géopolitique au XXI siècle, Armand Colin, 2015

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- FARINÓS, J.; OLCINA, J., eds. Geografía regional de España, Tirant lo Blanch, 2017
- GARCÍA ÁLVAREZ, J. Provincias, Regiones y Comunidades Autónomas: la formación del mapa político de España, Secretaría General del Senado, 2002
- LOYER, B. Géopolitique de l¿Espagne, Armand Colin, 2006
- PEREIRA, J.C., coord. La política exterior de España (1800-2003): historia, condicionantes y escenarios, Ariel, 2003
- PRESIDENCIA DEL GOBIERNO Estrategia de Seguridad Nacional 2017, Presidencia del Gobierno, 2017
- ROMERO GONZÁLEZ, J., coord. Geografía humana de España, Tirant lo Blanch, 2017
- VV.AA. Los intereses geopolíticos de España. Panorama de riesgos y amenazas, Ministerio de Defensa, 2011
- VV.AA. (2011): El Mediterráneo: cruce de intereses estratégicos, Madrid, Ministerio de Defensa, Monografías del CESEDEN nº 118, 191 pp. El Mediterráneo: cruce de intereses estratégicos (Monografías del CESEDEN nº 118), Ministerio de Defensa, 2011