

Comparative Politics I

Academic Year: (2021 / 2022)

Review date: 15-12-2021

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: FERNANDEZ VAZQUEZ, PABLO ALBERTO

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 2 Semester : 1

OBJECTIVES

Development of analytical and critical thinking skills.
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

5. Comparative Welfare state

- Introduction
- Types of welfare regimes
- Transformations, crisis and reforms
- Challenges

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

Class exercises and take home essay 60%
Final Exam 40%

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

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Clark, R., M. Golder y S. Golder, Principles of Comparative Politics, 3rd. edition, CQ Press, 2017.
- David Samuels Comparative Politics, Pearson, 2013

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), Política comparada , Paidós, 1972.
- Blondel, J. (ed.), El gobierno: estudios comparados, Alianza, 1981.
- Boix, C., "The roots of democracy", Policy Review 135: 3-21., 2006.
- Huntington, S.P., La tercera ola: la democratización a finales del siglo XX, Paidós, 1994.
- 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., Sistemas electorales y sistemas de partidos , Centro de Estudios Constitucionales, 1995.
- Linz, J.J., Obras escogidas, vol.4: Democracias: quiebras, transiciones y retos, Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales, 2009.
- Maravall, J.M., Los resultados de la democracia, Alianza, 1995.
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- O'Donnell, G. y P. Schmitter, Transiciones desde un gobierno autoritario: conclusiones tentativas sobre las democracias inciertas, Paidós, 1986.
- Przeworski, A. y F. Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: theories and facts", World Politics 49: 155-183..
- Przeworski, A., M. E. Alvarez, J. A. Cheibub y F. Limongi, Democracy and development: political institutions and well-being in the world, 1950-1990, Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Sartori, G. Cómo hacer ciencia política, Taurus, 2011.
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