# uc3m Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

## Research Approaches and Theories in Political Science

Academic Year: ( 2021 / 2022 ) Review date: 18-11-2021

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department Coordinating teacher: GARMENDIA MADARIAGA, AMUITZ

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits: 6.0

Year: 2 Semester: 1

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Understanding of the main approaches, theories and models of contemporary political analysis.
- Ability to link theoretical issues of contemporary politics with the empirical factors and the dynamics of political systems.

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

- 1. Research paradigms and explanations models in Political Science.
- 2. Normativism.
- 3. Critical Theory and postmodernism.
- 4. Constructivism and Interpretive Theory.
- 5. Behaviorism.
- 6. System Analysis and functionalism.
- 7. Institutionalism and new institutionalism.
- 8. Rational choice theory.
- 9. Other current theories and approaches.

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Teaching time is distributed according to the following training activities:

- Classes (50 per 100). It includes case studies that illustrate the lectures.
- Exercises and/or final paper elaboration, explanations and public debates on basic reading and case workshop: 50 per 100

## **ASSESSMENT SYSTEM**

- Examination of the subject on the agenda developed and basic readings (50% of the final grade).
- exercises and/or papers, exhibitions orother practical activities (50% of the final grade).

The student must pass the exam to pass the course.

% end-of-term-examination: 50

% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals...): 50

#### **BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Hay, C. Political Analysis, Palgrave, 2002.
- Kellstedt, Paul. M & Whitten, Guy.D. (eds) The Fundamentals of Political Science Research., Cambridge University Press, 2009
- Lowndes, V.; Marsh, D.; Stoker, G. (eds.), Theory and Methods in Political Science, 4rd ed.,, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017..

#### ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bevir, M.; Rhodes, R.A.W. Rourtledge Handbook of interpretative Political Science, Routledge., 2016.
- Colomer, J. M., Science of Politics,, Oxford University Press, 2010
- Dahl, R.A. Modern Political Analysis, Prentice Hall, 5th. ed., 1991.
- Green, Donald. P & Shapiro, Ian Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory, Yale University Press, 1994
- Hall, P. y R. Taylor, "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms",, en K. Sottan, E. Uslaner y

- V. Haufler (eds.), Institutions and Social Order, The University of Michigan Press,, 1998.
- Pollock, P.H. The Essentials of Political Analysis, Sage, 3rd ed., 2012.
- Shepsle, K., "Studying Institutions: Some Lessons from the Rational Choice Approach", Journal of Theoretical Politics, 1(2): 131-147,, 1989.
- White, L.G. Political Analysis: Technique and Practice, Wadsworth Publishing, 3rd. ed., 1994.