uc3m Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Methodology of Political Science

Academic Year: (2023 / 2024) Review date: 03-02-2023

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: JURADO NEBREDA, IGNACIO

Type: Basic Core ECTS Credits: 6.0

Year: 1 Semester: 2

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

Statistics

Introduction to Political Science

OBJECTIVES

Ability to work in a group

- * Ability to communicate ideas orally and in writing.
- * Ability to organise and plan research and investigations individually and in groups.
- * Ability to organise and analyse complex information.
- * Understand the existing theory and comprehend the main points of view in academic debates and identify relevant pieces of empirical evidence used to support positions.

Specific skills:

- * Formulate a problem/question enquiry.
- * Develop concepts and typologies to help analyse a specific research topic.
- * Theorise: Construct theory and explain a research problem/question individually.
- * Drawing hypotheses from a theory
- * Find data and define measures that address a specific research problem.
- * Identify, organise and analyse information in a critical and systematic manner
- * Identify methods for analysing data and measurement.
- * Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative techniques and ability to choose which is most appropriate to apply in different social science fields.
- * Hypothesis testing
- * Explore the relationship between theory, methods and the broader aims of the research.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

- 1. The logic of research in Political Science
- 2. The problem of causality in Political Science
- 3. Case and variable studies.
- 4. The Comparative Method in Political Science
- 5. Theories and Hypotheses
- 6. Research design
- 7. Data collection techniques
- 8. Data analysis
- 9. Visualization, preparation and reporting of research papers

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

AF1. THEORETICAL-PRACTICAL CLASSES. These will present the knowledge to be acquired by the students. Students will receive class notes and will have basic reference texts to help them follow the classes and develop their subsequent work. Exercises and practical problems will be solved by the student and workshops and evaluation tests will be carried out to acquire the necessary skills.

AF2. TUTORIALS. Individual (individual tutorials) or group (group tutorials) assistance to students by the lecturer. AF3. INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP WORK BY THE STUDENT.

MD1. THEORY CLASS. Class lectures by the lecturer with the support of computer and audiovisual media, in which the main concepts of the subject are developed and materials and bibliography are provided to complement the students' learning.

MD2. PRACTICES. Resolution of practical cases, problems, etc. posed by the teacher individually or in groups.

MD3. TUTORIALS. Individual (individual tutorials) or group (group tutorials) assistance to students by the lecturer.

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ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

SE1. FINAL EXAM. In which the knowledge, skills and abilities acquired throughout the course will be assessed globally.

SE2. CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT. This will assess the work, presentations, performance in debates, presentations in class, exercises, practices and work in the workshops throughout the course.

% end-of-term-examination: 60 % of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...): 40

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Andrew Gelman and Jeronimo Cortina A Quantitative Tour of the Social Sciences, California University Press, 2009
- D Brancati. Social Scientific Research, Sage, 2018
- Donatella della Porta, Michael Keating Enfoques y metodologías en las Ciencias Sociales: Una perspectiva pluralista, Ediciones AKAL, 2013
- Gerring J and Christenson D Applied Social Science Methodology: An Introductory Guide., Cambridge University Press, 2017
- J Creswell and D Creswell Research Design, Sage Edge, 2018
- King, G., Keohane, R. O, y Verba, S El diseño de la investigación social: la inferencia científica en los estudios cualitativos, Alianza, 2000