uc3m Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Introduction to Politics

Academic Year: (2023 / 2024) Review date: 19-04-2023

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: SIMON COSANO, PABLO

Type: Basic Core ECTS Credits: 6.0

Year: 2 Semester: 1

Branch of knowledge: Social Sciences and Law

OBJECTIVES

After completing the course the student will be able:

- To become familiar with political reality from a scientific perspective
- To know the main elements and factors, both structural and dynamic, that shape and influence the political process.
- To analyze the structure and functioning of political systems and their interaction with their environment
- To know the main political institutions and the interrelation of these ones with other political system components
- To analyze, in a basic way, the role of different types of political actors.
- To recognize the social, political, cultural and religious diversity of contemporary societies and the relevance and transversality that democratic principles and human rights have in them

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

- 1. Politics and political power.
- 2. Forms of political organization. State and State models.
- 3. Democracies and quality of democracies. Dictatorships
- 4. Territorial configuration of State structures.
- 5. Parliaments and political representation.
- 6. Government and government systems.
- 7. Values in the political system. Culture and political socialization.
- 8. The actors of the political system.
- 9. Political and electoral behavior.
- 10. Public policies.
- 11. Challenges of politics in today's wolrd

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Teaching time is distributed according to the following training activities:

- Lectures. It includes case studies that illustrate lectures.
- Written exercises on basic reading program and presentations by student teams
- Other training: specific work on a film; book test; newspaper seminar; structured discussions, etc...

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

- Final exam grade: 6 points. It requires to pass final exam to be taken into consideration class grade
- Classe grade: 4 points
- Final exam in extraordinary call: 10 points on the total grade

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

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- CARAMANI, D., ed. Comparative Politics, Oxford University Press, 2017.

- CLARK, W, GOLDER, M.; GOLDER, S. Principles of Comparative Politics, Sage, 3rd. ed., 2017.
- COLOMER, J.M. Science of Politics, Oxford University Press, 2010.
- GARNER, R.; FERDINAND, P.; LAWSON, S. Introduction to Politics, Oxford University Press, 2016.
- ROSKIN, M.G. et al. Political Science. An introduction., Pearson, 14th. ed., 2017.

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- DAHL, R.A. On Democracy, Yale University Press, 2002.
- DAHL, R.A. Modern Political Analysis, Prentice Hall, 7th ed., 1991.
- GOODIN, R.E., ed. The Oxford Handbook of Political Science, Oxford University Press, 2009.
- HAGUE, R.; HARROP, M. Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction, Palgrave MacMillan, 9th ed., 2013.
- LIJPHART, A. Patterns of democracy: government forms and performance in thirty-six countries. , Yale University Press, 2012.
- RANNEY, A. Governing: An Introduction to Political Science, Prentice Hall, 7th. ed., 1996.
- SHIVELY, W. Power and Choice: An Introduction to Political Science, McGraw Hill, 13th ed., 2012.
- STOKER, G. Why Politics Matter, Palgrave, 2006.