



NAME OF THE COURSE: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

STUDY: DEGREE IN POLITICS

COURSE: 2nd

SEMESTER: 1st

COURSE SYLLABUS

WEEK	SESSION	DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS	GROUP		Indicate different space from classroom if needed (computer room, audiovisual room, etc.)	ACADEMIC WEEKLY PLANNING		
			LARGE	SMALL		DESCRIPTION	FACE-TO-FACE HOURS	HOURS OF WORK PER WEEK (Max.7 H)
01	1	<p>General indications on the aim of the subject, the study and learning method and the skills that the student must acquire in order to pass the subject.</p> <p>LECTURE: Lesson 1.- <i>The Spanish Constitution of 1978: the history of Spanish constitutionalism; the process of political transition and the elaboration of the Constitution; general aspects and basic content of the constitutional text; structural principles of the constitutional order</i></p>	X			<p>The lectures given in a large group are dedicated to explain the subject syllabus. The weekly lectures require the students to previously read the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor.</p> <p>Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 1 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.</p>	1,5 h.	- 2,5 h.
01	2	<p>General indications on the activities that will be carried out in small groups, the materials that must be used and the assessment of these activities, with special emphasis on the multiple choice exams that will monitor the knowledge acquired in the master classes; introduction to the methodology of these groups: resolution of case studies, analysis of judgements, text analysis, discussions; individual and group work.</p> <p>LECTURE: Lesson 1.- <i>The Spanish Constitution of 1978: the process of political transition and the elaboration of the Constitution; general aspects and basic content of the constitutional text; structural principles of the constitutional order (Continuation).</i></p>		X		<p>The lectures given in a small group are aimed at the active participation of the students, who must have studied the contents explained in the previous week and done the corresponding work indicated for each session.</p> <p>Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 1.</p> <p>Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 1 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.</p>	1,5 h.	- 1 h. 3 h.

02	3	LECTURE: Lesson 2.- <i>The democracy principle as the basis of the constitutional organisation of the State: political participation and right to vote; representative democracy and elections; political parties; direct democracy institutions.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 2 . Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 2 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
02	4	Analysis of documentation sources related to the subject. The practice of the constitutional models: analysis and comparison of historical constitutional texts.		X	Audiovisual	Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: The professor will give the students the materials so they have a first contact with the different documents they will use during the course: the Constitution; other legal documents; official publications; jurisprudence (especially the Constitutional Court judgements); scientific doctrine. Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The students have to identify the characteristics of the different stages of constitutionalism from the most representative texts of each of them. Audiovisual materials might be used for the description of each stage.	0,5 h. 1 h.	- 1,5 h.
03	5	LECTURE: Lesson 3.- <i>The Head of State: the constitutional configuration of the Crown. The personal statute of the King; the succession to the throne; the role of the King and the countersigning of the King's acts.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 3. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 3 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
03	6	Analysis of the legal framework for the process of political transition.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The students will organize into groups and will have to prepare this session by consulting the legal framework that regulated the change of political regime. The groups will assume the roles of the political forces that took part in the constitutional process to debate in class. In this debate, each group will defend the arguments of the political force they represent.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.

04	7	LECTURE: Lesson 4.- <i>The Parliament in the Spanish Constitution: the Cortes Generales [I]. Composition and structure of the Cortes; the autonomy of the Chambers; the statute of the deputies.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 4. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 4 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
04	8	Practical activity aimed at finding the manifestations of the structural principles of the constitutional order in the articles of the Constitution.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The student has to read carefully the Constitution to find within it manifestations of the structural principles of the constitutional order studied in lesson 2.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
05	9	LECTURE: Lesson 5.- <i>The Parliament in the Spanish Constitution: the Cortes Generales [II]. Role of the Cortes: legislative; financial; control (reference) and political orientation.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 5. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 5 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
05	10	MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM about lessons 1, 2, 3 and 4. Workshop about the constitutional status and the role of political parties. Preparation for the general discussion about contents of the subject: electoral systems.		X		Evaluation of the knowledge acquired with a multiple choice exam (lessons 1, 2, 3 and 4). Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The professor will organize groups of work. Each of them will read the materials for the workshop before the lecture. Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Each group will be given a role, and they will expose well-argued arguments about the legal status of political parties in Spain. Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Preparation for the session 12 debate: issues, groups' organization, bibliographic suggestions.	0,5 h. - 0,5 h. 0,5 h.	- - 1,5 h. -
06	11	LECTURE: Lesson 6.- <i>The constitutional position of the Government: composition and formation of the Government; structure and functioning; statute of its members; role; the cessation of the Government.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 6. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 6 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.

06	12	Practical activity about the electoral systems of the Congress of Deputies and the Senate.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: Application of the electoral regulation to a case concerning the distribution of seats in the elections to the Congress of the Deputies and the Senate.	0,5 h.	1 h.
		Discussion about the different electoral systems and the possible modifications of the electoral system of the Congress of Deputies and the Senate.				Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Each group has to read the materials indicated before the lecture and, by means of a division of roles, they will compare the arguments about the issue debated in the lecture.	1 h.	1 h.
07	13	LECTURE: Lesson 7.- <i>The Spanish parliamentary system: the relations between the Government and the Cortes Generales. The parliamentary control; the demand for political responsibility; motion of censure and vote of confidence; the dissolution of the Cortes.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 7.	1,5 h.	1 h.
					Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 7 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	3 h.		
07	14	Practical activity about the legislative procedure in the Cortes Generales.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The students, organized in groups, have to prepare this lesson by consulting the documents and the indicated electronic sources about the process of a given law for an exposition in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
08	15	LECTURE: Lesson 8.- <i>The judiciary; concept of judiciary; constitutional principles of its organization and functioning; statute of judges and magistrates; the government of the judiciary.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 8.	1,5 h.	1 h.
						Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 8 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.		3 h.
08	16	Practical activity about the process of formation of the Government.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The student must apply the constitutional and legal regulation to a case related to the parliamentary formation of the Government.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.

09	17	LECTURE: Lesson 9.- <i>The territorial organisation of the State [I]: the territorial form; the local autonomy; the autonomy of nationalities and regions: the autonomous communities.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 9. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 9 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
09	18	MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM about lessons 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Preparation for the general discussion about contents of the subject: parliamentary control and the demand for political responsibility.		X		Evaluation of the knowledge acquired with a multiple choice exam (lessons 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9). Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Preparation for the session 20 debate: issues, groups' organization, bibliographic suggestions.	0,5 h. 1 h.	- -
10	19	LECTURE: Lesson 10.- <i>The territorial organisation of the State [II]: internal organisation of the autonomous communities; distribution of competences; relations between the State and the autonomous communities; financing of the autonomous communities.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 10. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 10 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
10	20	Practical activity about the parliamentary control and the demand for political responsibility. Discussion about the parliamentary control and the demand for political responsibility.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: Application of the regulation related to a case of parliamentary control and the demand for political responsibility. Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Each group has to read before the lecture the indicated materials. They, by a division of roles, will do a fictitious control debate.	0,5 h. 1 h.	1 h. 1 h.
11	21	LECTURE: Lesson 11.- <i>The system of rights and freedoms of the Spanish Constitution: the fundamental rights: concept and legal status; the rights and freedoms recognised in the constitutional order; the constitutional duties.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 11. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 11 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.

11	22	Workshop about the development of the autonomy process.		X		<p>Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The professor will organize groups of work. Each of them has to read the indicated materials for the workshop before the lecture.</p> <p>Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Each group, by a division of roles, has to do a well-argued exposition about the development of the autonomy process in Spain.</p>	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
12	23	LECTURE: Lesson 12.- <i>The protection system for the rights and freedoms: the regulatory guarantees, the Ombudsman, the judicial defence of the rights.</i>	X			<p>Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 12</p> <p>Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 12 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.</p>	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
12	24	Practical activity about the internal organisation of the autonomous communities and/or the distribution of competences between the State and the autonomous communities.		X		<p>Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The student must apply the constitutional and statutory regulation in light of constitutional jurisprudence to a case related to the internal organization of the autonomous communities and/or the distribution of competences between the State and the autonomous communities.</p>	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
13	25	LECTURE: Lesson 13.- <i>The constitutional jurisdiction: the constitutional jurisdiction within the framework of the organisation of the branches of government; the Spanish Constitutional Court: general aspects of its judicial status and role; the composition of the Constitutional Court; the statute of the magistrates; the internal organisation and the functioning of the Court.</i>	X			<p>Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 13.</p> <p>Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 13 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.</p>	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
13	26	Practical activity about the instruments for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms recognised in the Constitution.		X		<p>Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: Application of the acquired knowledge to a case related to the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms recognised in the Constitution.</p>	1,5 h.	1,5 h.

14	27	LECTURE: Lesson 14.- <i>The reform of the Constitution: constitutional flexibility and rigidity; general aspects and limits of a constitutional reform; the process of reform.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 14. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 14 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
14	28	Practical activity about the constitutional jurisdiction and/or the reform of the Constitution.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: Application of the acquired knowledge to a case related to the position and functions of the Constitutional Court and/or the reform of the Constitution.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
-	-	MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM about lessons 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.		X		Evaluation of the knowledge acquired with a multiple choice exam (lessons 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14).	0,5 h.	-

Subtotal 1 **42,5 h.** **77,5 h.**

Total 1 (Teaching hours and student work hours between 1-14 weeks)

120 h.

15	-	Second chance examinations, tutorials, work submissions, etc.				The students can arrange a tutorial (individual or collective) with the professor in order to solve any doubt with regard to the final exam.	2 h.	-
16	-	Preparation of the examination and examination.				Even though the students have studied during the semester, they will have to study more in order to be prepared for the final exam.	3 h.	25 h.
17	-							
18	-							

Subtotal 2 **5 h.** **25 h.**

Total 2 (Teaching hours and student work hours between 15-18 weeks)

30 h.

TOTAL (Total 1 + Total 2)							150
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