COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE/SUBJECT EUROPEAN COMPARATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS

YEAR (1) | SEMESTRAL COURSE SEMESTER 2

DEGREE (S) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND EUROPEAN UNION

MODALITY ON CAMPUS

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020

FACULTY OF LAW
1. COURSE/SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.- COURSE/SUBJECT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: EUROPEAN COMPARATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Code:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year(s) course is taught: 1º</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester(s) when the course is taught: 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type: Core Subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECTS of the course: 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours ECTS: (30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language: English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modality: On Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Degree(s) in which the course is taught: International Relations and European Union Degree</td>
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<tr>
<td>School which the course is taught: Law</td>
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2.- ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE:

| Department: International Law               |
| Area of knowledge: Constitucional Law, Comparative Politics, Political Science |

2. LECTURERS OF THE COURSE/SUBJECT

1.-LECTURERES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecturer(s)</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: Ainhoa Uribe Otalora</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone (ext): +34 91 456 63 00 ext. 15112</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:ainhoa.uribeotalora@ceu.es">ainhoa.uribeotalora@ceu.es</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office: Faculty of Law. 1st Floor</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2.- TUTORIALS:

For any queries students can contact lecturers by e-mail, phone or visiting their office during the teacher’s tutorial times published on the students’ Virtual Campus.
3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The objective of the course is to introduce students to European Comparative Politics. In this course we will look at issues of central significance to Europe and the European Union. First, we will distinguish and understand basic concepts of politics (what is a constitutional system? What is a democracy? What is an authoritarian regime? What is a hybrid regime?, and so on). Secondly, we will understand elections and democratic process. Thirdly, we will analyse a number of European countries, paying special attention to fundamental political issues and debates that characterise the national life of contemporary Europe.

Learning Goals:

The learning objectives of the course are the following ones:

- Understand the comparative method.
- Understand the importance of the fundamental issues that characterise politics in contemporary Europe.
- Develop the skills to critically analyse European politics in general and the political conflicts and tensions of contemporary Europe in particular.

4. COMPETENCIES

1.- COMPETENCIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Basic and General Competencies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BC1</td>
<td>Continuous learning: To enhance the student’s ability to learn, having assimilated the concepts previously learnt in the secondary education, through advanced texts related to their area of knowledge.</td>
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(CB1: Que los estudiantes hayan demostrado poseer y comprender conocimientos en un área de estudio que parte de la base de la educación secundaria general, y se suele encontrar a un nivel que, si bien se apoya en libros de texto avanzados, incluye también algunos aspectos que implican conocimientos procedentes de la vanguardia de su campo de estudio.)

| BC 2 | Work in a professional way: To allow the students to apply their knowledge in a professional way. To use arguments and solve problems in their area of knowledge. |

(CB2: Que los estudiantes sepan aplicar sus conocimientos a su trabajo o vocación de una forma profesional y posean las competencias que suelen demostrarse por medio de la elaboración y defensa de argumentos y la resolución de problemas dentro de su área de estudio).|

| BC 3 | Understand data: To allow students to look up information and understand it, in order to make statements and judgements, about important topics such as social, scientific or ethical issues. |

(CB3: Que los estudiantes tengan la capacidad de reunir e interpretar datos relevantes (normalmente dentro de su área de estudio) para emitir juicios que incluyan una reflexión sobre temas relevantes de índole social, científica o ética). |
CODE SPECIFIC COMPETENCES

CE4 To understand geographical areas, organisations and related areas of knowledge (such as Public International Law, Comparative Political Systems, History of International Relations, etc.)

CE5 To understand the competences and functions of an state, an international organisation, the European Union and other actors in the international system.

CE6 To manage to know the sources of information of the EU

CE8 To acquire the ability to compare political systems and understand their institutions and process of decisions, paying special attention to the constitutional process and their foreign policy.

CE9 To understand the structure and functioning of the EU at all levels.

5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1.- DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS` ASSIGNMENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>On-campus hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>60</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Not on-campus hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Self student work</td>
<td>120</td>
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2.- DESCRIPTION OF LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>AF2 Seminar</td>
<td>Learning activity which highlights the participation of the student in the reasoned interpretation of the contents and the sources of the area of study. It is oriented preferably to the competence of the application of knowledge (competence 2 MECES), and also to the ability of gathering, interpreting, and judging information and relevant data (competence 3 MECES). It is representative of mixed profile activities or subjects; theories and practices.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| AF4 Practice and dissertations | Learning activity oriented preferably to the competence of application of knowledge (competence 2 MECES) and representative of subjects or practical activities.  
1) Tests: The student should be able to identify and explain different concepts, to compare political assumptions; and to write analytical essays. |
2) Oral presentations: The students will be evaluated also by oral presentations.

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<tr>
<th>AF7</th>
<th>Self Student Work</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Learning activity where the student develops his or her study in an autonomous way working with formative materials.</td>
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6. ASSESMENT OF LEARNING

1.- CLASS ATTENDANCE:

- In order to be eligible for examination by continuous assessment students must attend at least 75% of scheduled class time (attendance sheets will be used). As students may be absent 25% of the classes, no attenuating circumstances will be accepted for absences.
- 100% attendance at practical classes is required.

2.- ASSESMENT SYSTEM AND CRITERIA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORDINARY EXAMINATION (continuous assessment)</th>
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<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RE-TAKE EXAM/EXTRAORDINARY EXAMINATION</th>
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<td>Code</td>
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3.- DESCRIPTION OF ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment criteria</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SE1 Dissertation</td>
<td>Presentation of lectures in seminars or work groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE2 Written Exam</td>
<td>Tests, short questions, essay questions, exercises, practical cases or legal questions.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Midterm exam (short questions and practical questions)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Final exam (short questions and practical questions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE4 Assessment of Practices or Simulations</td>
<td>Practices and Simulations</td>
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1.- COURSE PROGRAMME:

PART 1. INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICAL SYSTEMS

UNIT 1. COMPARATIVE METHOD AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS
  1.1 INTRODUCTION
  1.2. THE COMPARATIVE APPROACH TO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
  1.3 COMPARING DATA: SELECTING CASES AND VARIABLES

UNIT 2. INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SYSTEMS
  2.1. COMPARATIVE MODELS: Classical Models
  2.2. COMPARATIVE MODELS: Contemporary Models.

PART 2. TYPES OF STATES (I)

UNIT 3. STATE AND CONSTITUTION
  3.1. CONSTITUTIONAL STATE
  3.2. THE RULE OF LAW
  3.3. SOCIAL AND DEMOCRATIC STATE

UNIT 4. CONSTITUTIONAL STATES. AUTHORITARIANISM AND TOTALITARIANISM
  4.1. INTRODUCTION: DEFINITIONS
  4.2. AUTHORITARIAN AND TOTALITARIAN STATES
  4.3. STUDY CASE: FROM DICTATORSHIP TO DEMOCRACY. TRANSITION PROCESS

UNIT 5. DEMOCRACIES AND ELECTIONS
  5.1. DEMOCRACIES AND THE DIVISION OF POWER.
    5.1.1. LEGISLATIVE POWER
    5.1.2. EXECUTIVE POWER
    5.1.3. JUDICIAL POWER
  5.2. DEMOCRACIES AND ELECTIONS
    5.2.1. THE RIGHT OF VOTING
    5.2.2. MAYORITY SYSTEMS: UNITED KINGDOM, IRELAND, FRANCE.
    5.2.3. PROPORTIONAL SYSTEMS: NORDIC COUNTRIES, BELGIUM, SPAIN.
    5.2.4. MIXED SYSTEMS: GERMANY

PART 3. TYPES OF STATES (II)

UNIT 6. UNITARIAN STATES
  6.1. UNITARIAN STATES
  6.2. TYPES OF UNITARIAN STATES
  6.3. STUDY CASE: THE SPANISH STATE OF AUTONOMIES

UNIT 7. UNIONS OF STATES
### Course Description / Academic year 2019-2020

#### 7.1. UNIONS OF STATES
#### 7.2. CONFEDERATIONS
#### 7.3. THE EUROPEAN UNION

#### UNIT 8. FEDERAL STATES
- **8.1. FEDERAL STATES**
- **8.2 TYPES OF FEDERAL STATES**

#### UNIT 9. DECENTRALISED STATES
- **9.1 DECENTRALISED STATES**
- **9.2. TYPES OF DECENTRALISED STATES**

#### PART 4. EUROPEAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS. CASE STUDIES

#### UNIT 10. PARLIAMENTARIANISM (I). UNITED KINGDOM
- **10.1. THE WESTMINSTER MODEL**
- **10.2. CONSTITUTION AND POLITICAL ORGANISATION**
  - 10.2.1. EXECUTIVE POWER
  - 10.2.2. LEGISLATIVE POWER
  - 10.2.3. JUDICIAL POWER

#### UNIT 11. PARLIAMENTARIANISM (II). GERMANY
- **11.1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT**
- **11.2. CONSTITUTION AND POLITICAL ORGANISATION**
  - 11.2.1. EXECUTIVE POWER
  - 11.2.2. LEGISLATIVE POWER
  - 11.2.3. JUDICIAL POWER

#### UNIT 12. PARLIAMENTARISM (III). NORDIC COUNTRIES. CONSENSUS DEMOCRACIES
- **12.1 DENMARK**
- **12.2. SWEDEN**
- **12.3. FINLAND**
- **12.4. ICELAND**
- **12.5. NORWAY**

#### UNIT 13. SEMIPARLIAMENTARISM (IV). ISRAEL
- **13.1. CONSTITUTION AND POLITICAL ORGANISATION**
- **13.2. STUDY CASE: 1996-2000**

#### UNIT 14. PRESIDENTIALISM (I). RUSIA
- **14.1. CLASSICAL MODEL: UNITED STATES**
- **14.2. CONSTITUTION AND POLITICAL ORGANISATION: RUSSIAN NEW PRESIDENTIALISM**
  - 14.2.1. EXECUTIVE POWER
  - 14.2.2. LEGISLATIVE POWER
  - 14.2.3. JUDICIAL POWER
UNIT 15. SEMIPRESIDENTIALISM. FRANCE
  15.1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT
  15.2. CONSTITUTION AND POLITICAL ORGANISATION
    15.2.1. EXECUTIVE POWER
    15.2.2. LEGISLATIVE POWER
    15.2.3. JUDICIAL POWER

UNIT 16. SYSTEM OF CONVENTION. SWITZERLAND
  16.1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT
  16.2. CONSTITUTION AND POLITICAL ORGANISATION
    16.2.1. EXECUTIVE POWER
    16.2.2. LEGISLATIVE POWER
    16.2.3. JUDICIAL POWER

8. RECOMMENDED READING

1.- ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:


A copy of European Politics. A Comparative Introduction is available at the Library. This textbook provides in each chapter a number of additional readings and online resources.
2.- ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY:

A number of academic journals are devoted to European politics and the EU. The most notable examples include:

- Comparative European Politics,
- European Journal of Political Research
- West European Politics.

4.- WEB RESOURCES:

There is an extensive list of websites and databases that both analyse European and EU news and recent events, and provide in-depth analysis and theoretically informed discussions.

Useful websites

(For general web materials on European Politics see Tim Bale's Internet Guide)

- [www.rulers.org](http://www.rulers.org) Heads of state and government
- [www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org) Parliaments throughout Europe

Others:

- The Economist [http://economist.com](http://economist.com)
- The Guardian [http://theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com)
- The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (European University Institute) • [http://www.eui.eu/DepartmentsAndCentres/RobertSchumanCentre/Index.aspx](http://www.eui.eu/DepartmentsAndCentres/RobertSchumanCentre/Index.aspx)
- ARENA Centre for European Studies [http://www.sv.uio.no/arena/english](http://www.sv.uio.no/arena/english)
- Centre for European Policy Studies [http://www.ceps.be](http://www.ceps.be)

9. ATTITUDE IN THE CLASSROOM

1.- REGULATIONS

Any irregular act of academic integrity (no reference to cited sources, plagiarism of work or inappropriate use of prohibited information during examinations) or signing the attendance sheet for fellow students not present in class will result in the student not being eligible for continuous assessment and possibly being penalized according to the University regulations.