

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 34418
Name: Introduction to political science
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1310 - Degree in Sociology	Facultat de Ciències Socials	1	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1310 - Degree in Sociology	Political science	BASIC

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

This subject is part of the Social Sciences module of the Sociology degree. It is a core subject of the first course. It implies the first contact of the students with Political Sciences and Administration, and is therefore merely introductory. This subject will approach basic issues of Political Science and Administration which will be covered

in depth in later subjects such as *Compared Politics* and *Political Structure in Spain and the Valencian Community*.

The subject is aimed at providing the students with a general overview and general concepts of Political Science and Administration. It will also be used to outline the evolution from the organization of power in the Modern State in the new governance and to define the constitutive elements of the political system and its interaction and operating patterns: in the first place, the territorial organization of the political powers.

Also, the forms of government: parliamentarism, presidentialism and mixed systems. In the third place, the political agents: political parties, new social movements and pressure groups.



Finally, students will also be introduced to the studies of public politics (especially its designs), implementation and evaluation.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Relationship with other subjects of the same degree.

No specified enrolment restrictions.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Analyse social phenomena adopting a multidisciplinary perspective (sociological, psychosocial, economic, political, historical and anthropological).

Clearly communicate theories, problems and proposals of a sociological nature, both orally and in writing, using new information and communication technologies.

Know and use secondary data sources useful for sociology.

Know the institutions of the welfare society that contribute to safeguarding social rights.

Know the tools needed to create, implement and evaluate public policy programmes and social intervention projects.

Learn independently and develop initiative in the field of sociology.

Manage documentary sources and statistics referring to social reality.

Respect and promote the principles of fundamental rights, gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, democratic values and sustainability.

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have acquired the competences required for the preparation and defence of arguments and for problem solving in their field of study.

Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.



Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

Understand the political-economic organisation and the historical evolution of contemporary societies at the global and local level, and their relationship with social dynamics and processes.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. FUNDAMENTALS

Unit 1. Politics and its study. What is Political Science? Basic concepts: politics. Power. Legitimacy. Democracy. The political system and its elements.

2. THE STATE AND ITS EVOLUTION

Unit 2. Organization of power and its historical evolution. The creation of the modern State. Machiavelli and the creation of modern Political Science. Hobbes and Bodin. The State as a construct. The first and second liberalisms. Communism and fascism. The welfare state.

3. DEMOCRACY AND ITS INSTITUTIONS

Unit 3. Democracy and forms of government. Democracy and democracies. Parliamentarism versus presidentialism. Mixed systems. Models of democracy.

Unit 4. Vertical distribution of power: the multilevel government. Unitary state, decentralized state and federal state. The state of autonomies. The creation of the EU. The state and the organization of power in a globalized world. Governance as a new form of political regime.

Unit 5. Horizontal distribution of power. Assemblies, parliamentary groups, parties and deputies. Decisional and non-decisional functions of parliament. The structure and functions of the government. Relationships between government and parliament. The structure and politics of the judiciary. Politization of justice and judicialization of politics.

4. THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND ITS ACTORS

Unit 6. Elections, electoral systems and representation. The function of elections. Electoral systems and their political consequences. Political representation. Political culture, participation and political behaviour. Campaigns and political marketing.

Unit 7. Political actors. Political parties. New social movements. Pressure groups.

Unit 8. Public administration and public policies. Public management and public policies. Phases of public policies.

**WORKLOAD****PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	13,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	16,00
Preparation of lessons	41,00
Preparation for assessment activities	20,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Throughout the year the following activities will be carried out:

- a. Lectures by the teacher.
- b. Practical activities (individual and group work): case-solving, practical activities in class, IT applications, workshops, presentations, guided practical exercises outside the classroom.
- c. Complementary activities: visits to institutions, attendance at lectures (talks) o exhibitions, viewing of audiovisual material, etc.
- d. Autonomous work and study: preparation of theoretical lessons, reading of texts, gathering and analysis of information.

EVALUATION

The composite grade is based in 2 elements, both in the first and in the second exam periods:

a) A final exam: at the end of the course a final test will be carried out on all the contents of the course, whether they have been taught in the classroom or not. The exam will also include the materials that are included in the different sessions. This test will have a value of 60 percent of the overall score. The student must have achieved at least a 4 (out of 10) in order to compute the score of the assignments made in the class along the course.



b) Assignments in the class: Throughout the semester will be made different exercises and complementary activities of various kinds to be delivered in presence the day of the course (some of them require that the student has previously worked on the materials indicated by the teacher). The content of these exercises in class also constitutes materials and susceptible to be part of the end-of-course test, regardless of whether the student has fulfilled (and made correctly) all the deliveries. The overall score of these exercises will have a value of 40 percent of the final grade (dividing equally -20 percent- between the two seasons of the course in case of annual subjects). The teacher will specify in advance which exercises are evaluable.

The non-delivered exercises will not be recoverable later or for the second call.

REFERENCES

- Del Águila, R. (ed.) (2002), Manual de Ciencia Política, Madrid, Trotta.
- Vallès, J.M. (2001) Ciencia Política, Barcelona, Ariel.