

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

Code: 34419
Name: Political structure in Spain and the Valencian Country
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1310 - Degree in Sociology	Facultat de Ciències Socials	2	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1310 - Degree in Sociology	Political structure in Spain and the Valencian Country	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

This is a second-year subject of the degree in Sociology. Its contents are closely related to the concepts and skills learnt in the first academic year and especially to the subject *Introduction to Political and Administration Sciences*.

This subject is aimed at applying the concepts learnt in *Introduction to Political and Administration Sciences* to situations in our country. It will start with the introduction of the main characteristics of the evolution of the political system throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, with special emphasis on conflicts and on how the current political system deals with them. Then, the main political institutions and the relationship between them will be analyzed: the Crown, the Government, the Administration, the Parliament and the Judicial Power. In the third place we will examine the multi-level nature of the Spanish political system, with special attention to the State of Autonomies and its institutions. In this context, the political institutions of the Valencian Community will serve as an example of the organization and functioning of the Autonomous Communities. Later we will analyze the characteristics of the political culture and the political behaviour of the citizens in order to analyze the main collective actors: parties, pressure groups and new social movements.



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 enrolment restrictions have been specified.

Other types of prerequisites

Though it is not mandatory, it is advisable that students have a clear knowledge of the concepts learned in the subject Introduction to Political and Administrative Sciences.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1310 - Degree in Sociology

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

Conduct comparative studies of the Spanish and Valencian social structure.

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. Historical basis of the political structure in Spain and the Valencian Community

Unit 1. Cleavages in Contemporary Spain.

Unit 2. The Transition in Spain and the Valencian Community. Main Features of Democratic Consolidation.

2. The State's institutional elements

Unit 3. The Parliamentary System of Government.

Unit 4. The Judiciary and Constitutional Review.

3. Territorial structure

Unit 5. Public Administrations.

Unit 6. The Spanish Autonomous Model. Creation and Evolution of Institutions in the Valencian Community.

4. Elections and attitudinal elements

Unit 7. The Electoral System in Spain and the Valencian Community.

Unit 8. Political Culture: Values and the National Question.

Unit 9. Political and Electoral participation.

5. Collective actors

Unit 10. Parties and the Party System in Spain and the Valencian Community.



Unit 11. Interest Groups and Social Movements.

6. System results

Unit 12. Public Policy Analysis. Sectoral 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	9,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	16,00
Preparation of lessons	45,00
Preparation for assessment activities	20,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The transmission and acquisition of knowledge will take place, first and foremost, through the lecture class. The instructor will present the essential contents of the course, bringing them closer to real-world contexts by using current examples, classical texts, case studies, legal documents, online materials, and so on. Active participation from students will be required at all times. Students must have prepared in advance the topics to be addressed in class through individual study and autonomous work. Likewise, students are expected to devote time outside the classroom to reviewing the content of each lecture.

Throughout the course, various practical activities will be carried out, both individually and in groups. To complete them, students must use materials provided by the instructor or search for them in institutions, libraries, online sources, etc. Activities conducted in class will require prior preparation of the different study topics, as well as consultation of any complementary materials indicated by the teaching staff. Practical assignments must be submitted on the established date, and submissions outside the stipulated deadline will not be accepted.

EVALUATION



The assessment of the course consists of two components, both in the first and second examination periods:

1. Final exam: at the end of the course, a final examination will be administered covering all the course content, whether or not it has been taught in class, as well as the materials addressed in the different sessions. This exam will account for 60% of the final grade.
2. Continuous assessment: throughout the semester, students will complete practical assignments and complementary activities of various kinds, which must be submitted on the date indicated by the instructor. This component will account for 40% of the final grade.

To obtain points for continuous assessment, students must have attended at least 80% of the practical sessions. Furthermore, in order to add the grade obtained in continuous assessment (from the practical sessions) to the exam grade, students must achieve at least a 4 out of 10 on the final exam.

The content of all continuous assessment tasks also forms part of the course materials and may therefore be included in the final exam. The instructor will explain how each assignment must be completed and submitted, and will provide the results of the various practical activities before the exam. Practical assignments—whether not completed or not submitted within the established deadline, or already completed or graded—cannot be made up after the submission date.

In the second examination period, students who did not pass the course in the first period may retain the grade (up to 40% of the final grade) obtained from the evaluable practical assignments completed during the semester (taking only the general second-period exam), or they may take an additional test to be assessed on the recoverable portion of those in-class assignments. When publishing the grades from the first examination period, the instructor will announce whether any assignments are recoverable (and, if so, how, with what content, and with what percentage value toward the final grade). For the grade from this additional test (and/or the grade from the practical assignments completed during the semester) to be added to the general second-period exam grade, students must obtain at least a 4.0 out of 10 on that exam.

Students who have followed the continuous assessment process and have been evaluated accordingly, but do not attend the final exam on the official examination date (in either the first or second period), will receive the grade "Absent".

REFERENCES

Core reference texts

- MARTIN CUBAS, J. ; GARRIDO, V. Y ROIG, R. (2020). Política y Gobierno en la Comunitat Valenciana. Valencia, Tirat lo Blanch.
- MONTABES, J. y MARTÍNEZ, A. (2019). Gobierno y política en España. Valencia, Tirant lo Blanch.
- RENIU, J.M. (2025). Sistema político español. Un Manual. Barcelona, Atelier.