



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 36706
Name: History of Political Thought I
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2026-27

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1335 - Degree in Political and Public Administration Sciences	Facultat de Dret	1	First quarter
1930 - Double Degree Programme in Law and Political and Public Admin. Sciences	Facultat de Dret	1	First quarter
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Facultat de Dret	1	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1335 - Degree in Political and Public Administration Sciences	Ciencia política	BASIC
1930 - Double Degree Programme in Law and Political and Public Admin. Sciences	Asignaturas obligatorias de primer curso	COMPULSORY
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Asignaturas obligatorias de primer curso	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

MARTIN CUBAS JOAQUIN

SUMMARY

The subject History of Political Thought I is a four-month subject of 6 credits that is taught in the firstsemester of the first year of the Degree in Political Science and Public Administration. Its character as a basic subject makes it fundamental among the different studies leading to the degree and, despite its autonomy, it is especially linked to other subjects of the degree, especially History of Political Thought II–second semester of the first year– or Theory and Contemporary Philosophy –fourth year-, but also the different subjects of Fundamentals of Political Science, whose contents are incomprehensible without having the theoretical baggage that contributes the study of political ideas and forms in their historicaldevelopment.

The subject History of Political Thought I aims to address the study of thought and great political theories



throughout the long history that goes from the dawn of civilization to the birth of modernity. To this end, after an initial approach to methodological problems and political theory--practice differentiation, we will enter into the study of the major milestones that have marked the evolution of political ideas during that period: from the ideas that accompany the emergence of political societies, through the theorizations around the polis, empires, feudalism, to the most characteristic around the dawn of modernity and the birth of the liberal state.

Within this general framework we place special emphasis on the study of political problems in ancient Greece, focusing especially on the theoretical contributions of the sophists, Plato and Aristotle. It also studies the responses of the Hellenistic schools to the crisis of the polis and the emergence of the Republic and the Empire as new political forms. We analyze how Stoicism serves as a bridge between the reality in which authors such as Cicero or Seneca live and the new ideas that Christianity will bring soon after.

Theology and, in particular, the contribution of Augustine of Hippo and subsequent political Augustinianism will be the new common thread that, through the struggles between the Papacy and the Empire within the framework of a feudal society with its own dynamics, leads us to the recovery of reason in political thought by Thomas Aquinas, to the emergence of rising theories of power and humanist theories, to the irruption of reform and counter-reform and the start of wars of religion, germinal ground for political ideas that will revolutionize our ways of organizing ourselves politically.

We are already at the dawn of the birth of the State and the appearance of its great theorists, Machiavelli and Hobbes, among others. These authors, in addition to placing the State at the center of their reflection, assume new epistemological perspectives, as a way of overcoming theological approaches, which place us already in modernity. From these references the subject introduces us to the study of the theorists of the first liberalism -Spinoza, Locke and Montesquieu- closing with them the contents of the subject before entering the political thought of modernity and contemporary that will be the object of study of the subject History of Political Thought II.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

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

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

No enrolment restrictions have been specified with other subjects in the curriculum.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

1335 - Degree in Political and Public Administration Sciences

Análisis de información para evaluar problemas políticos o de gestión pública y elaborar propuestas de mejora



Aplicar críticamente las principales teorías y enfoques de género a las instituciones, actores y políticas públicas.

Aplicar críticamente las principales teorías y enfoques de la Ciencia Política y de la Administración Pública.

Conocer y saber analizar las características, causas y consecuencias de retos sociales contemporáneos: desigualdad de género, ciberseguridad y sostenibilidad del desarrollo.

Pensamiento crítico.

Saber distinguir los valores, ideologías, actitudes y pautas de comportamiento de los ciudadanos así como su evolución temporal.

Saber identificar, diseñar y transmitir mensajes e información política, especialmente discursos políticos y campañas políticas e institucionales a través de medios analógicos y digitales.

Saber utilizar los métodos y técnicas de análisis cuantitativos y cualitativos, así como el método comparativo.

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.

Trabajo en equipo.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. METHODOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION.

Presentation of the subject.- Introduction to its contents.- Methodologies in the History of Political Thought.



2. CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY.

The beginnings of political ideas in Antiquity.- Political thought in Greece: the sophists, Plato, Aristotle and the Hellenistic schools.- Political thought in Rome: stoicism, of the Republic in the Empire.

3. MEDIEVAL THOUGHT.

The construction of Christian political thought: from the origins to Augustine of Hippo.- Feudalism and the struggle for supreme power: between Caesaropapism and hierocratic theories.- Political Augustinianism.- The recovery of reason: scholasticism and Thomas Aquinas.- The ascending theories of power and conciliarism.

4. THE ORIGINS OF MODERNITY.

The end of the Middle Ages: rebirth, humanism and reform.- The emergence of utopian thought.- The birth of the State: of the reason of State and the autonomy of politics.- The ideas of political absolutism.- The beginnings of liberalism: from enlightened thought to the English revolution.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

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

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	3,00
Individual or group project	12,00
Independent study and work	15,00
Preparation of lessons	40,00
Preparation for assessment activities	20,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching methodology in the subject History of Political Thought I is based on the following five types of activities:

- ¿ Master classes.



- ¿ Classroom practices: text analysis, directed discussions, presentations and similar activities.
- ¿ Practical works outside the class: readings and analysis on "classic" works of political thought.
- ¿ Complementary activities: cineforum, conferences, round tables and other similar ones; and
- ¿ Study and autonomous work (unguided): previous preparation of the sessions of theory, reading of texts, collection and analysis of the information.

The theoretical-practical character of the History of Political Thought I course allows the questions of the program to be treated from this double and complementary perspective: the theoretical reflections provided by the teacher and the work of the key texts of political thought by the students.

In the theoretical classes, the transmission of knowledge will be carried out mainly through the masterclass. The teacher will try to transmit the essential contents of the subject approaching them to the reality by means of the examples, use of selected texts and other materials.

At the same time, the active participation of the students will be demanded, which can be realized ¿in addition to the daily dynamics of the class¿ in exhibitions or debates on certain topics, both in the theoretical classes and in practical ones.

Students must do a previous study reading on the contents scheduled for each session; for this purpose they will use the recommended manuals and scientific articles; to the explanations of the teacher in the theoretical classes in the case of practical classes; and to the reading of the recommended original texts or other complementary works when indicated by the teacher of the subject.

The texts of the chosen authors and their analysis constitute a fundamental point of support in the development of the program. The practices, except for works that are carried out outside the classroom at the direction of the teacher, will be elaborated and debated in the course of the practical classes, having to deliver the work done at the end of each practical class.

The tutorials will be carried out individually or, when the circumstances require it, in a group in order to solve doubts, attend problems in relation to the subject, direct the works demanded, among other reasons that require it.

A minimum of one complementary activity will be carried out outside the teaching hours. This or these may consist of the screening of films, conferences, workshops and seminars, as well as institutional visits that will be announced throughout the course. The complementary activities will be carried out preferably in the day or days and time slots assigned by the Faculty for this type of activities.

EVALUATION

The evaluation of the course is made up of two grades, both in the first and in the second call:



a) *Exam*: at the end of the course, there will be a final test on all the contents of the subject, whether they have been taught in the classroom or not, and the materials that has been analyzed in the different sessions. This test will account for the 60 percent of the overall mark.

b) *Continuous evaluation*: Throughout the semester practical work and complementary activities of various kinds will be carried out, which must be delivered on the day indicated by the professor. This part will have a value of up to 40 percent of the final grade.

In order to obtain points from the continuous assessment, the student must have attended a minimum of 75% of the sessions dedicated to `practices`. In addition, in order to add the grade obtained in the continuous evaluation (of the practical sessions) to the grade in the exam, the student must have obtained at least a 4 (out of 10) in the exam.

The content of all the exercises done in the classroom also constitutes materials and contents of the course, so they are likely to be part of the end-of-course test. The teacher will explain how each exercise should be done and delivered. The results of these exercises will be delivered before the exam. The practices (whether those not carried out or delivered within the respective stipulated period, or those already carried out or evaluated) will not be recoverable after the delivery date, nor for the second call (keeping for this the note of the continuous evaluation achieved throughout the semester).

REFERENCES

OAKESHOTT, M. (2012 y 2013) Lecciones de historia del pensamiento político, 2 vols., Unión. -

PRIETO, F. (1990) Historia de las ideas y de las formas políticas, varios tomos, Unión. - TOUCHARD, J. (2006) Historia de las ideas políticas, Tecnos.

SABINE, G. (2005) Historia de la teoría política, Fondo de Cultura.