



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 36712
Name: Political Actors: Parties, Interest Groups and Social Movements
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1335 - Degree in Political and Public Administration Sciences	Facultat de Dret	2	Second quarter
1930 - Double Degree Programme in Law and Political and Public Admin. Sciences	Facultat de Dret	3	Second quarter
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Facultat de Dret	3	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1335 - Degree in Political and Public Administration Sciences	Actores políticos: partidos, grupos de interés y movimientos sociales	COMPULSORY
1930 - Double Degree Programme in Law and Political and Public Admin. Sciences	Asignaturas obligatorias de tercer curso	COMPULSORY
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Asignaturas obligatorias de tercer curso	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

OÑATE RUBALCABA PABLO

MEDINA IBORRA IVAN

SUMMARY

The subject belongs to the Political Science and Public Administration degree, and is taught as compulsory in the second year. The purpose here is to know how collective actors organize, mediate and represent the demands and ideologies of citizenship. For this, the organizational evolution of these collective actors (political parties, interest groups and social movements) is analyzed, focusing on how organizational, institutional and political factors affect the mobilization of interests and the design of repertoires of collective action.



This subject aims to study in detail: first, the evolution of the organizational models of political parties and their programmatic and ideological definition; second, the types of party systems and their institutional and political consequences, third, the different types of interest groups and their strategies of influence, and fourth, the types of social movements and the repertoires of protest and resources at their disposal. These issues will be addressed from the main institutional, sociological and economic theories applied to the study of collective action and collective political actors.

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 enrollment restrictions have been specified with other subjects of the curriculum.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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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 y pautas de actuación de los principales actores políticos (partidos, sindicatos, grupos de interés y nuevos movimientos sociales).

Conocer y saber analizar los procesos electorales, tanto desde el punto de vista institucional, como desde el del comportamiento de los actores colectivos e individuales.

Interpretar los marcos políticos y procesos históricos estableciendo análisis comparativos de cambio y de proyección futura.

Pensamiento crítico.

Saber analizar escenarios de actuación en política internacional y proponer actuaciones para distintos tipos de actores.

Saber analizar la estructura y funcionamiento de los sistemas y procesos políticos, sus elementos, así como su dimensión histórica, con especial atención al sistema político español y al de la Unión Europea.

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



Saber elaborar informes, dictámenes y trabajos de investigación política.

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. Definitions and origins of political parties.

2. Ideological families of political parties, their evolution and their models.

3. The organization of political parties: models of vertical and horizontal organization, funding and digitization.

4. Participation in political parties: members, leaders and public officials.

5. Party systems (I): dimensions, typologies and analysis criteria.



- 6. Party systems (II): change and continuity.
- 7. Interest groups: definitions and typologies. Main approaches for the study and analysis (pluralism, neocorporatism, policy networks) of interest groups.
- 8. The organization of interest groups organization and the Group Theory.
- 9. Regulation, influence and access strategies.
- 10. Definitions of social movements. Old and new social movements
- 11. Theoretical approaches to the analysis of social movements
- 12. Organization, identity, resources, cycles of protest and forms of activism.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

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

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	5,00
Individual or group project	40,00
Independent study and work	35,00
Preparation of lessons	10,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00



TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The transmission and acquisition of knowledge will be carried out, in the first place, through the master class. The teacher will explain the essential contents of each of the topics, bringing them closer to reality through the use of current examples, the use of classic texts, cases, legal texts, online materials, etc. The active participation of the students will be demanded at all times. Students will be required to previously prepare the topics that will be discussed in class through study and autonomous work. Similarly, students are expected to spend some time outside the classroom reviewing the content of each of the lectures.

Throughout the course, various practical activities will be carried out, both individually and collectively. To do this, students must use materials provided by the teacher or search for them in institutions, libraries, the Internet, etc. The activities carried out in class will require the prior preparation of the various study topics, as well as the consultation of the complementary materials that the teacher may indicate. The exercises of the practical activities must be delivered on the date determined for it, without accepting their reception outside the stipulated period.

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



The **basic readings** consist of general textbooks, which students should consult as the syllabus progresses, and required readings, which are necessary supplements to the teaching given in class and will form part of the material examined at the end of the course.

- Course textbooks: -Rodríguez-Aguilera del Prat, C. (2017) Manual de partidos políticos. Barcelona: Huygens. -Molins, J.M., L. Muñoz e I. Medina (eds.) Los grupos de interés en España. Madrid: Tecnos Della Porta, D. y M. Diani (2011) Los movimientos sociales. Madrid: CIS.

Details of required **readings by topic** (these readings may change in the coming weeks, depending on the search for the best ones for each topic)

- Topic 1: Ware, A. (1996) Partidos políticos y sistemas de partido. Madrid: Istmo (Introducción).
- Topic 2: Von Beyme, K. (1986) Los partidos políticos en las democracias occidentales. Madrid: CIS (Cap. 2).
- Topic 3: Katz, R. y P. Mair (2022) Democracia y cartelización de los partidos políticos. Madrid: Catarata (Cap. 1 y 5).
- Topic 4: Ware, A. (1996) Partidos políticos y sistemas de partido. Madrid: Istmo (pp. 109-139).
- Topic 5: Sartori, G. (1992) Partidos y sistemas de partidos, Madrid, Alianza Editorial (Cap. 1 y 5).
- Topic 6: Casal Bertoa, F. y Scherlis, G. (comp.) (2015) Partidos, sistemas de partidos y democracia. La obra esencial de Peter Mair, Buenos Aires, Eudeba. (Cap 6).
- Topic 7: Jordana, J. (1996) ¿Las asociaciones de intereses y la acción colectiva?, en M. Caminal (ed.) Manual de Ciencia Política. Madrid: Tecnos.
- Topic 8: Medina, I. y L. Muñoz (2016) ¿La relevancia de los grupos de interés en la ciencia política?, en J.M. Molins, L. Muñoz e I. Medina (eds.) Los grupos de interés en España. Madrid: Tecnos.
- Topic 9: Medina, I. y L. Bouza-García (2020) "Grupos de interés y administraciones públicas: estrategias, mitos y debates actuales", en B. Aldeguer y G. Pastor (eds.) Democracia, Gobierno y Administración Pública Contemporánea. Madrid: Tecnos.
- Topic 10: Definiciones. Viejos y nuevos movimientos sociales. ¿ Johnston, H. (2022) ¿Qué es un movimiento social? Madrid: Alianza Editorial (Caps. 1 y 2)
- Topic 11: Ullán de la Rosa, F.J. (2016) Teorías sociológicas de los movimientos sociales. Madrid: La Catarata.
- Topic 12: Tilly, Ch. y L. Wood (2014) Los movimientos sociales 1768-2008. Barcelona: Crítica (Cap. 1)
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