VNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

Course Guide
36712 Political Actors: Parties, Interest Groups and Social Movements

COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 36712
Name: Political Actors: Parties, Interest Groups and Social Movements
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	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 Ciències Socials	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

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MEDINA IBORRA IVAN

SUMMARY

This course is part of the Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Public Administration and is taught as a compulsory subject in the second year. Its aim is to understand how collective actors organise, mediate and represent citizens' demands and ideologies. It also analyses the evolution of these collective actors—political parties, interest groups and social movements—and how organisational, institutional and political factors affect interest mobilisation and shape repertoires of collective action.

The course examines in detail the evolution of organisational models of political parties, their programmatic and ideological definition, types of party systems and their institutional and political consequences, types of interest groups and their influence strategies, and types of social movements and

their protest repertoires and available resources. These topics are approached through major institutionalist, sociological and economic theories applied to 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

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 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 prospección 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

Block I. Political Parties and Party Systems.

1. Definitions, origins and functions of political parties.

2. Parties and ideologies.

3. Party organisation and participation.

4. Party systems.

Block II. Interest Groups, Representation and Political Influence.

5. Definitions, typologies, approaches and group theory.

6. Organisation, resources, influence and access.

Block III. Social Movements.

7. Definitions and approaches.

8. Organisation and collective action.

Block IV. New Political Actors in Digital Democracy and Global Governance.

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
Total hours	**90,00**

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

a) Final exam: At the end of the course, a comprehensive final exam will be administered covering all the

contents included in this course guide, whether or not they have been taught in class, as well as the materials used in the various sessions. This exam will account for 60% of the final grade.

b) Continuous assessment: Throughout the semester, students will complete practical assignments and complementary activities of various types, which must be submitted on the date indicated by the instructor. This component will account for up to 40% of the final grade. To obtain points from continuous assessment, students must attend at least 80% of the class sessions dedicated to it. Furthermore, in order to add the continuous-assessment grade (from practical sessions) to the final exam grade, students must obtain at least 4 out of 10 on the final exam. The content of all continuous-assessment assignments also forms part of the course material 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 practical activities before the exam. Practical assignments—whether not completed or not submitted by the deadline, or already completed or graded—cannot be retaken after the submission date.

In the second examination period, students who did not pass the course in the first period may either keep the grade obtained for the evaluable practical assignments completed during the semester (up to 40% of the final grade, taking only the general second-period exam) or take an additional test to be assessed on the recoverable part of those in-class assignments. When publishing the first-period grades, the instructor will announce whether there are recoverable assignments (and in what form, with what content, and with what percentage value). To add the grade from this additional test (and/or the grade from the practical assignments completed during the semester) to the general second-period exam grade, students must obtain at least 4.0 out of 10 on that exam.

Students who have followed continuous assessment and have been evaluated accordingly, but do not attend the final exam on the official exam date (in either the first or second period), will receive the grade Not Presented. This corresponds to the original line: "El alumnado que haya seguido la evaluación continua… obtendrá la calificación de No Presentado."

The teaching staff responsible for the course may, with due justification, modify the format of the final exam if required to administer it on a date different from the official one, in accordance with the regulations on exam-date conflicts of the University of Valencia or any other legally established cause (e.g., justified force majeure). In such cases, the new exam format must maintain the same level of demand and difficulty as the exam taken by the rest of the group.

REFERENCES

Basic Readings

- DELLA PORTA, D. y DIANI, M. (2011). Social movements. Madrid, CIS.
- MOLINS, J.M., MUÑOZ, L. y MEDINA, I. (eds). (2016). Interest groups in Spain. Madrid, Tecnos.
- RODRÍGUEZ-AGUILERA DEL PRAT, C. (2017). Handbook of political parties. Barcelona, Hyugens.

Reference Readings.

- CASAL BERTOA, G. y SCHERLIS, G. (2015). Parties, party systems and democracy. The essential work of Peter Mair (chapter 6). Buenos Aires, Eudeba.
- JOHNSTON, H. (2022). What is a social movement? (chapters 1 and 2). Madrid, Alianza Editorial.
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- MEDINA, I. y BOUZA-GARCÍA, L. (2020). Interest groups and public administrations: strategies, myths and current debates. En ALDEGUER, B. y PASTOR, G. (eds). Contemporary democracy, government and public administration. Madrid, Tecnos.
- MEDINA, I. y MUÑOZ, L. (2016). The relevance of interest groups in political science. En MOLINS, J.M., MUÑOZ, L. y MEDINA, I. (eds). Interest groups in Spain. Madrid, Tecnos.
- SARTORI, G. (1992). Parties and party systems (chapters 1 and 5). Madrid, Alianza Editorial.
- TILLY, CH. y WOOD, L. (2014). Social movements 1768–2008 (chapter 1). Barcelona, Crítica.
- ULLÁN DE LA ROSA, F.J. (2016). Sociological theories of social movements. Madrid, La Catarata.
- VON BEYME, K. (1986). Political parties in Western democracies (chapter 2). Madrid, CIS.
- WARE, A. (1996). Political parties and party systems (introduction). Madrid, Istmo.