



**COURSE DATA**

**DATA SUBJECT**

**Code:** 36725  
**Name:** Democracy and Democratic Audit  
**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	3	First quarter
1930 - Double Degree Programme in Law and Political and Public Admin. Sciences	Facultat de Dret	4	First quarter
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Facultat de Dret	4	First quarter

**SUBJECT-MATTER**

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1335 - Degree in Political and Public Administration Sciences	Democracia y auditoría democrática	COMPULSORY
1930 - Double Degree Programme in Law and Political and Public Admin. Sciences	Asignaturas obligatorias de cuarto curso	COMPULSORY
1931 - Double Degree Program in Sociology-Political Sciences and Public Administr.	Asignaturas obligatorias de cuarto curso	COMPULSORY

**COORDINATION**

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OÑATE RUBALCABA PABLO

**SUMMARY**

The course belongs to the degree of Political Science and Public Administration, being taught as compulsory in the third year. The objective of this course is to know and know how to apply different aspects of contemporary representative democracies from an empirical and comparative perspective, identifying the elements of democratic systems and their interactions, studying the consequences of different combinations of systemic elements in democratic regimes and knowing how to analyze relevant information for political systems in comparative databases on democracy and democratic quality. To this end, this course deals in detail with the study of democracy, considering its definitions and approaches, its comparison with other political regimes, the processes of democratic transition, the varieties and quality of democracy, as well as the main contemporary democratic deficits: populism and illiberal democracies.



These objects will be analyzed from the main theories of political science and using quantitative and qualitative methods, as well as the comparative method.

## 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 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

Analizar el diseño, la planificación, la gestión y la evaluación de las políticas públicas y hacer recomendaciones de mejora, especialmente en las políticas de género, medio ambiente y desarrollo sostenible.

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

Conocer y saber analizar la estructura y funcionamiento de las Administraciones públicas.

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 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 analizar las principales técnicas de gestión en la Administración Pública y diseñar estrategias de mejora organizativa y aseguramiento de la calidad de los servicios públicos ante los retos del nuevo entorno digital.

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. Democracies: definitions, approaches and results. Polyarchy.
2. Basic principles and evolution of democracies.
3. Models of democracy: majoritarian and consensual.
4. Non-democratic systems.
5. Transitions to democracy. Arenas, factors and variables.
6. The quality of democracies: dimensions of quality.
7. Methods for the analysis of the quality of democracy.
8. Results of the analysis of the quality of democracy and types of political regimes.
9. Democracy and economic development
10. Deficits and contemporary challenges of democracy. Populism and illiberal democracies.

## WORKLOAD

### PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>60,00</b>

**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
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>90,00</b>

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

The transmission and acquisition of knowledge will be carried out, in the first place, through the master class. The teacher will present the essential contents of the subject, bringing them closer to reality through the use of current examples, classic texts, cases, legal texts, online materials, etc. The active participation of the students will be demanded at all times. They will have to have previously prepared the topics to be discussed in class through study and independent work. Likewise, students are expected to dedicate part of the time outside the classroom to review the content of each of the lectures. Throughout the course, various activities of a practical nature will be carried out, both individually and in teams. To do so, students will have to use materials provided by the teacher or look for them in institutions, libraries, internet, etc. The activities carried out in class will require prior preparation of the various topics of study, as well as the consultation of complementary materials that may be indicated by the teacher. The exercises of the practical activities must be handed in on the date determined for this purpose, and their reception outside the stipulated period will not be accepted.

**EVALUATION**

The evaluation of the course consists of 2 elements, both in the first and in the second call:

a) *Exam*: at the end of the course, a final test will be held on all the contents of the subject included in this teaching guide, whether they have been taught in the classroom or not, and the materials included in the various sessions. This test will be worth 60% of the overall grade.

b) *Continuous evaluation*: Throughout the semester, practical work and complementary activities of various kinds will be carried out, which must be handed in on the day indicated by the professor. This part will have a value of up to 40% of the final grade. In order for the student to obtain points for the continuous evaluation, he/she must have attended a minimum of 75% of the class sessions dedicated to it. 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 final exam.

The content of all these continuous assessment assignments also constitute course materials and content, and are therefore eligible for the end-of-course exam. The teacher will explain how each exercise is to be performed and handed in, and will subsequently hand in the results of the various practical exercises prior to the exam. The practices (either those not completed or delivered within the stipulated deadline, or those already completed or evaluated) will not be recoverable after the date of delivery, nor for the second call



(maintaining for this one the grade of the continuous evaluation achieved throughout the semester).

## REFERENCES

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

Details of compulsory **readings by topic** (these readings may undergo some changes in the coming weeks, depending on the search for the best ones for each topic):

### Topic 1 & 2:

Dahl, R. La poliarquía (2001). Diez textos básicos de Ciencia Política. Madrid: Ariel, 77-92.

O'Donnell, G. (2000). ¿Teoría democrática y política comparada?. Desarrollo económico, 39 (56), 519-570.

Morlino, L. (2003). Las alternativas no democráticas. Democracias y democratizaciones. Madrid: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, 28-58.

Sartori, G. (1991). ¿Democracia? Revista de Ciencia Política, 13(1-2), 117-151.

### Topic 3:

Lijphart, A. (u.ed.): Modelos de democracia. Madrid: alianza editorial. Caps. 1-3.

### Topic 4:

Morlino, L. (2003). Democracia, democracias, cuasi-democracias. Democracias y democratizaciones. Madrid: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, 1-27.

Morlino, L. (2003). ¿Las alternativas no democráticas?. Democracias y democratizaciones.

Madrid: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, 28-58.

Diamond, L. (2004). ¿Elecciones sin democracia. A propósito de los regímenes híbridos.

Estudios políticos, 24,117-134.

### Topic 5:

Linz, J. (1990). Transiciones a la democracia. REIS: Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas, 51, 7-33.

Morlino, L. (2003). Del autoritarismo a la democracia. Democracias y democratizaciones.

Madrid: Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, 88-110.

### Topic 6-8:

Coppedge, M., Gerring, J. y Lindberg, S. (2012). Variedades de democracia (V-Dem): un enfoque histórico, multidimensional y desagregado. Revista Española de Ciencia Política, 30, 97-109.

Escobar, M. (2011). La calidad democrática. Una propuesta para su medición por expertos.

Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas (REIS), 133(1), 59-80.

Estrella, D. (2009). Evaluar la calidad de la democracia. Una introducción al marco de trabajo de IDEA internacional, IDEA Internacional.

Morlino, L. (2012). Observando las diferentes calidades de la democracia. Revista mexicana de análisis político y administración pública, 1(1), 9-48.



Topic 9:

Landman, T. (2011). *¿Democracia y desarrollo económico¿*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial.  
Rodrik, D. y Subramanian, A. (2002). *Institutions Rule: The Primacy of Institutions over Geography and Integration in Economic Development*, NBER Working Paper 9305, Cambridge, Massachusetts: National Bureau of Economic Research.

Topic 10:

Casullo, M. E. (2014). *¿En el nombre del pueblo? Por qué estudiar al populismo hoy*. *Postdata*, 19 (2), 227-313.  
Ungureanu, C., y Serrano, I. (2018). *Introducción: ¿la nueva era del populismo?*. *Revista CIDOB d Afers internacionals*.