

GUIA DOCENTE DE LA ASIGNATURA
**The Political Systems of Spain
 and the European Union**

Curso 2014- 2015
 (Fecha última actualización: dd/mm/aa)

CURSO	MATERIA	PERIODO	GRUPO	CRÉDITOS / HORAS ⁽¹⁾	TIPO
PSS&EU	Cultura		0A0X	4 / 45	Optativa
HORARIO			AULA		
PROFESORES			INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO PARA TUTORÍAS (correo electrónico)		
			HORARIO DE TUTORÍAS		
CURSO EN EL QUE SE IMPARTE			OTROS CURSOS A LOS QUE SE PODRÍA OFERTAR		
Spanish Language and Culture Course					
PRERREQUISITOS Y/O RECOMENDACIONES (si procede)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haber realizado la prueba de nivel de acceso al curso y haber sido clasificado en un nivel 5 (B1.2) o 6 (B2.1) Haber superado el nivel anterior de lengua en el último mes Haber superado en el semestre anterior el Curso de Lengua y Cultura Españolas (en inglés) en los niveles 3 (A2+) o 4 (B1.1). 					
COURSE DESCRIPTION					
<p>The aim of this course is to teach the basic foundations of contemporary politics and history of Spain while also describing the main elements which constitute the political system of the European Union. Starting with a basic method for interpreting the political reality, a dynamic understanding of the current workings of both Spain and the European Union as a whole is provided.</p>					
GENERAL AND SPECIFIC SKILLS					
<p>General skills :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity of analysis and synthesis Ability to organize and plan Development of computer skills Oral and written communication in Spanish Acknowledgement of diversity and multiculturalism 					

Anexo IV PCLM-07/03

- Critical thinking
- Autonomous learning
- Adapting to new situations
- Creativity
- Leadership skills
- Knowledge of other cultures, their customs and traditions
- Initiative and entrepreneurial spirit
- Concern for quality
- Being able to develop a project according to the provided guidelines

Specific skills

- A good understanding of the concepts, theories, actors and processes of the European Union
- Comprehension of the elements of the political system of the EU and its public policies
- Comprehension of the legal aspects of the EU
- A good understanding of the political and legal structure of the EU
- Identification of research objectives and formulation of research hypotheses
- The ability to work in a team and communicate constructive criticism in oral and written form
- Critical analysis and synthesis of information
- Management of bibliographic and statistical resources in the field of EU
- Analysis of media content regarding EU public policies, and its place in the international relations
- Positive attitude, open to reflection and criticism
- Respect towards cultural and personal differences of fellow students and the educational community

OBJECTIVES

- Achieve an adequate comprehension of key concepts and theoretical approaches to the political and legal system of the EU
- Achieve a good understanding of processes and actors involved in the political and legal processes of the EU
- Acquire cognitive and instrumental skills related to actors and public policies of the EU

CONTENTS

THEORETICAL CONTENTS:

Unit 1. An introduction to Europe and Spain: Culture, Politics, Society, Economy, and Geography

Unit 2. The history of European Integration. The case of Spain: from Dictatorship to the European Union membership

Unit 3. The political system of the European Union: a comparative analysis with the Spanish political system

Unit 4. The European Union Public policies

Unit 5. The European Union and its citizens: European Public Opinion

Unit 6. Spain and the European Union

WORKSHOPS:

- *Presidentialism versus Parliamentarism*
- *Religion and European Integration*
- *The technocratic nature of the European Commission*
- *Territorial representation in Federal High Chambers: a comparative approach*
- *Electoral Behaviour in National and European Elections*
- *Public Opinion and Euro-scepticism in Europe*



READINGS

REQUIRED READINGS: the required readings will be provided by the instructor during the course and sent (email) to the students every week before the start of each unit.

ADDITIONAL AND RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- ALCANTARA, M., *Los Sistemas Políticos de la Unión Europea*, Tirant Lo Blanc, Valencia, 2000.
- ALMOND, G.A., DALTON, R.J., POWELL, G.B., JR, *European Politics Today*, Longman, 2002.
- BALE, T., *European politics: a comparative introduction*, Palgrave, Houndmills (England), 2005.
- BOMBERG, PETERSON, STUBB, *The European Union: How does it work?* Bomberg, Peterson, Oxford, 2008.
- CINI, M., *European Union Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2010.
- CLOSA, C., *Sistema Político de la Unión Europea*, Estudios Complutense, Madrid, 1997.
- CLOSA, C., *Spain and the European Union*, Houndmills: Palgrave MacMillan, 2004.
- COLOMER, J.M. (ed), *Political Institutions in Europe*, Routledge, London, 2002.
- DANNEREUTHER, R., *European Union Foreign and security policy. Towards a neighbourhood strategy*, Routledge, Londres, 2005.
- DINAN, D., *Ever Closer union: an introduction to European Integration*, Palgrave MacMillan, 1999.
- EILSTRUP-SANGIOVANI, M., *Debates on European Integration*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2006.
- GOWER, J. ed., *The European Union Handbook*, Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, Chicago, 2005.
- HANCOCK, M. D. ed., *Politics in Europe*, CQ Press, Washington D.C., 2006.
- HAYES-RENSHAW and WALLACE, *The council of ministers*, Palgrave, Londres, 1997.
- HENING, S., *Power and decision in Europe*, Europtentials Press, Londres, 1980.
- HIX, S. and HOYLAND, B. *The political System of the European Union*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2011.
- KESSELMAN, M. et al., *European politics in Transition*, Houghton Mifflin, 2002.
- KEOHANE, R AND STANLEY HOFFMANN, *The new European community*, Westview Press, Oxford, 1991.
- LANE, J-E and ERSSON, S., *European Politics. An introduction*, Sage Publications, 1996.
- LANE, J-E and ERSSON, S., *Politics and society in Western Europe*, Sage Publications, 1999.
- MAGONE, J.M., *Contemporary Spanish politics*, Routledge, Nueva York, 2004.
- McCORMICK, J. *Understanding the European Union: a concise introduction*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2014.
- MORATA, F. *La Unión Europea: procesos, actores y políticas*, Ariel Ciencia Política, Barcelona, 1998.
- NUGENT, N., *The Government and politics of the European Union*, MacMillan Press LTD., Basingstoke, 2003.
- NUGENT, N. and PATERSON, W. E., *Debates on European Integration*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2006.
- PADGEN, A. ed. *The idea of Europe from antiquity to the European Union*, Woodrow Wilson Center Press, Washington D.C., 2002.
- PETERSON, J. and SHACKLETON, M., *The institutions of the European Union*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2004.
- PHINNEMORE, D., *A dictionary of the European Union*, Europa, London, 2002.
- QUERMONNE, J-L., *Le Système politique de l'Union Européenne*, Montchrestien, Clefs-Politique, París, 1998.
- RICHARDSON, J., *European Union : power and decision-making*, Routledge, Londres, 2001.
- SMITH, A., *Politics and the European Commission: actors, interdependence, legitimacy*. Routledge, Londres, 2004.
- SMITH, K.E., *European Union Foreign Policy in a Changing World*, Polity, Cambridge, 2008.
- SMITH, M.E., *Europe's foreign and security policy. The institutionalization of cooperation*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2004.
- WALLACE, H. AND WILLIAM WALLACE, *Policy making in the European Union*, Oxford University Press,



Oxford, 2005.

RECOMMENDED LINKS

The Financial Times: <http://www.ft.com>

The Economist: <http://www.economist.com>

The Week in Europe: <http://www.cec.org.uk/press/we/latest.htm>

<http://www.europa.eu.int>

<http://www.eiop.or.at/euroint/>

<http://www.euroguide.org>

<http://www.eurunion.org>

<http://www.europarl.eu.int>

<http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/statistics/>

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2007/01/data/index.aspx>

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures by the instructor, supported with bibliographical and other didactic materials, followed by debates with the students. The class will follow a seminar format. This presupposes that the readings assigned for each week have been made before we meet in class. At the beginning of each class, the instructor will introduce the materials and allow some time for questions of clarification. Thereafter, we will have a seminar discussion. Students will be invited to express their views on the materials for the class and the criticisms made during the presentation. Both the presentations and the discussions around them are expected to be respectful, professional and anchored in the class materials.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Participation in class will account for 15% of the final grade. So STUDENTS are strongly recommended to actively participate in class, to raise questions, particularly if there is anything you didn't understand, and to make comments. THERE ARE NO STUPID QUESTIONS. Active participation is also an essential part of the learning process, so in class you have a wonderful opportunity to exercise and enhance your ability to speak in public, which is an essential part of politics, education and citizenship.

Weekly assignments. As mentioned above, the weekly assignments count for 25% of the final grade. These research papers are short analytical pieces of about one or two pages long, and the topic will be proposed by the instructor every week. Papers must apply concepts and theories from the class and offer a clear and coherent thesis which is by and large supported by plausible and sound arguments and empirical evidence. It must address several course readings and aspects relevant to the course, and it must demonstrate a solid understanding of the issues at stake. The author frames a problem/question that is for the most part coherently addressed in the paper, and which is supported by good arguments and evidence. The paper must include textual evidence and quotes from several sources, must be solidly structured and the writing must be good as well meeting the formal standards of academic journals or research publications by international organizations.

Students will deliver the papers by e-mail before the fixed deadline. Late papers will not be accepted.

Exams. The mid-term and the final exam count each for 30% of your final grade. They will be in-class examinations (1 ½ hours) which will primarily focus on the reading materials and lectures but will also ask for



your point of view, and arguments backing it up. Good knowledge of the reading material, carefully listening to the lectures, and thinking about the issues of concern will ensure that you receive a good grade.

- Student participation 15%
- Mid-term exam 30%
- Final exam 30%
- Weekly assignments 25%

SPANISH GRADES

Sobresaliente Honor: 10

Sobresaliente: 9.99 - 9.0

Notable: 8.99 - 7.0

Aprobado: 6.99 – 5.0

Suspense: 4.99 – 0

No presentado: si el estudiante no hace los exámenes

Asistencia Insuficiente: si el estudiante no asiste al menos al 80% de las clases

(para consultar equivalencias con el sistema de los Estados Unidos: http://www.clm-granada.com/html/n_estudiantes/esp/cursos_calificaciones.htm)

INFORMACIÓN ADICIONAL

(1) Los créditos ECTS son los reconocidos por la Universidad de Granada. Las horas se refieren a las de contacto directo en el aula con el profesor.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Primer semestre	Temas del temario	Actividades presenciales						Actividades no presenciales			
		Sesiones teóricas (horas)	Sesiones prácticas (horas)	Exposiciones y seminarios (horas)	Tutorías colectivas (horas)	Actividades evaluadoras (horas)	Etc.	Tutorías individuales (horas)	Estudio y trabajo individual del alumno (horas)	Trabajo en grupo (horas)	Etc.
WEEK 1	T. 0 T. 1	1 1	1 1						2 3		
WEEK 2	T. 1	2	3					1	4,5	1	
WEEK 3	T. 1 T. 2	1 1	2						2 3,5	1	
WEEK 4	T. 2	1	3					1	4	2	
WEEK 5	T.2 T.3	1 1	2			2		1	5		
WEEK 6	T.3			4				1	1	3	
WEEK 7	T. 4	2	2						4		
WEEK 8	T. 4 T. 5	1 1	1 1					1	4		
WEEK 9	T. 5 T. 6	1,5 1	1,5					1	4		
WEEK 10	T.6	1	3			2		1	4		
Teaching Hours		16,5	20,5	4		4	45				55