

Introduction to Political Science and International Relations

Code: 101519
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500244 East Asian Studies	FB	1	2

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

Prerequisites

There are no specific prerequisites to take this subject, although students should have some knowledge of and interest in political theory and political philosophy, international relations and political science. A habit of reading news and analyses with different perspectives is recommended.

Students must have basic computer skills and the ability to understand written and audiovisual documents in English.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The objective of this subject is to lay the groundwork for the acquisition of analytical skills applicable to political theory, political science and international relations. The course aims to provide students with the basic analysis tools to be able to situate the debates and topics of their specialisation (East Asia) in a broader context, both in the theoretical field and in the global political reality. During the semester, we will work on developing and applying the basic tools of political theory and science to understand and analyse processes, structures, actors and discourses. As regards the study of international reality, we will introduce the debates and theoretical frameworks that have helped people to interpret the world and shape it. The subject seeks to improve students' ability to think critically and interpret the relationship between today's political behaviours, events, dilemmas, changes and contradictions.

Competences

- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Developing self-learning strategies.
- Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
- Having interpersonal skills.
- Knowing and understanding the structures, agents, institutions and organizations that shape the political processes and international relations in connection with Asia.
- Knowing and using the information and communication technology resources (ICT) in order to collect, produce, analyse and present information related to the East Asian Studies.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.

Learning Outcomes

1. Assessing the obtained results in the information search process in order to update the knowledge about political sciences.
2. Demonstrating knowledge of key concepts and theoretical frameworks of the political sciences.
3. Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
4. Developing self-learning strategies.
5. Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
6. Having interpersonal skills.
7. Identifying and describing the main structures, agents, institutions and bodies of the political and international systems.
8. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
9. Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.
10. Using different tools for specific purposes in the field of political sciences.
11. Using the basic terminology of the political sciences.

Content

Section A: Introduction to the basic concepts of political science

What is political science?
Power, authority and resistance.
State and sovereignty. The genesis of the modern western state.
Sociopolitical divisions: causes and dynamics of political conflict.

Section B: Ideologies and political thought

Classical liberalism, neoliberalism and radical liberalism: individuals, states and markets.
The left and socialisms: utopian socialisms, Marxism(s), communism.
Anarchism(s), mutual aid and cooperativism.
Fascism and totalitarianism.
Imperialism and colonialism: the hegemony of the white man.
Nationalisms.
Feminisms.
Political communication and propaganda.

Section C: Regimes, structures, institutions and actors

The political system of Easton.
Types of regimes: polyarchies-democracies, non-democratic regimes, dictatorships, autocracies and totalitarian systems.
Forms of political organisation. Structure and institutions of the State. Forms of government.
Participation and representation. Plebiscites, referendums and electoral systems.
Political parties: from class interests to professionalisation.
Collective action. Social movements, pressure groups and corporations.
Media: public opinion.

Section D: International relations: theories and debates

The discipline of international relations and the paradigmatic debate.
Realism, liberalism and constructivism.
Non-western theories of international relations.
The dynamics of international relations.

Methodology

To achieve the established objectives, this subject combines lectures with the individual work and active participation of the students.

The subject's essential content will be covered in lectures and complemented by reading assignments to be carried out outside class.

Students will be encouraged to use the Moodle classroom as a common space for exchanging information related to the course (information, debates, materials, complementary resources, etc.).

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Classroom exercises	10	0.4	2, 3, 8, 9, 6, 11, 5
Lectures	40	1.6	2, 7, 11
Type: Supervised			
Individual work, guided reading assignments and tutorials	17.5	0.7	1, 2, 4, 3, 7, 8, 9, 6, 10, 11, 5
Type: Autonomous			
Reading and documentation	71	2.84	4, 10

Assessment

Assessment is continuous. Students must provide evidence of their progress by completing tasks and tests. Task deadlines will be indicated in the course schedule on the first day of class. All activity deadlines are indicated in the subject's schedule and must be strictly adhered to.

Related matters

The above information on assessment, assessment activities and their weighting is merely a guide. The subject's lecturer will provide full information when teaching begins.

Review

When publishing final marks prior to recording them on students' transcripts, the lecturer will provide written notification of a date and time for reviewing assessment activities. Students must arrange reviews in agreement with the lecturer.

Missed/failed assessment activities

Students may retake assessment activities they have failed or compensate for any they have missed, provided that those they have actually performed account for a minimum of 66.6% (two thirds) of the subject's final mark and that they have a weighted average mark of at least 3.5. Under no circumstances may an assessment activity worth 100% of the final mark be retaken or compensated for.

The lecturer will inform students of the procedure involved, in writing, when publishing final marks prior to recording them on transcripts. The lecturer may set one assignment per failed or missed assessment activity or a single assignment to cover a number of such activities.

Classification as "not assessable"

In the event of the assessment activities a student has performed accounting for just 25% or less of the subject's final mark, their work will be classified as "not assessable" on their transcript.

Misconduct in assessment activities

Students who engage in misconduct (plagiarism, copying, personation, etc.) in an assessment activity will receive a mark of "0" for the activity in question. In the case of misconduct in more than one assessment activity, the students involved will be given a final mark of "0" for the subject.

Students may not retake assessment activities in which they are found to have engaged in misconduct. Plagiarism is considered to mean presenting all or part of an author's work, whether published in print or in digital format, as one's own, i.e. without citing it. Copying is considered to mean reproducing all or a substantial part of another student's work. In cases of copying in which it is impossible to determine which of two students has copied the work of the other, both will be penalised.

More information:

<http://www.uab.cat/web/study-abroad/undergraduate/academic-information/evaluation/what-is-it-about-13456700>

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Essay (1 essay)	40%	4	0.16	1, 2, 4, 3, 7, 8, 9, 6, 10, 11, 5
Evaluation tests (2 tests)	60% (30% x 2)	7.5	0.3	2, 4, 3, 7, 11, 5

Bibliography

A b o u t _____ p o l i t i c a l s c i e n c e
Vallès, Josep M., *Ciencia política: una introducción*; Barcelona: Ariel, 2007.

A b o u t _____ p o l i t i c a l t h e o r y
Ball, Terence, Bellamy, Richard (Eds.), *Historia del pensamiento político del siglo XX*; Madrid: Akal, 2013.

A b o u t _____ i n t e r n a t i o n a l r e l a t i o n s
Del Arenal, Celestino, *Introducción a las relaciones internacionales*; 4ª edición, Madrid: Tecnos, 2007.