

Regional Policies and Administration

Code: 104259
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2503710 Geography, Environmental Management and Spatial Planning	OB	3	1

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

Contact

Name: Asunción Blanco Romero
Email: Asuncion.Blanco@uab.cat

Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Antoni Ramón Riba

Prerequisites

Non specifically, just have a general idea of what is happening today. In other words, have a bit of a general background and minimally follow the news.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The objective of the course is to offer students an introduction and basic knowledge about the relations between politics and institutions, on the one hand, and territory, on the other.

The objectives of the subject consist of knowing the basic elements that make up local governments: normative principles, structures, actors and policy agenda to achieve the ability to analyze the reality of local government with a critical and well-founded vision, especially in Catalonia, but studying cases from Spain as a whole and from other countries of the European Union. It will try to propose and analyze future alternatives based on current debates.

The subject is closely related to "Urban policies: housing, neighborhoods and mobility". The knowledge and skills acquired are considered essential for the training and future professional performance of students. Hence, it has the character of a compulsory subject.

Competences

- Introduce theoretical and applied aspects of the main regional, environmental and urban policies in professional practice.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Use the scientific and professional language of the social sciences.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse and critically evaluate the operation of the political institutions at different levels of government.
2. Describe the main concepts in the area of study of relations between politics and society in Spain and Catalonia.
3. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
4. Use the scientific and professional language of the social sciences.

Content

BLOCK 1. Introduction to the study of politics and administration

Topic 1. Politics, power and territory

- The question of power
- Relational definition of power
- The forms of power: economic, ideological, political
- Politics as a form of power

Topic 2. The question of the State

- Approaches to the study of the State
- The State as an organization of political power
- State functions
- State, civil society and economic power
- The State, groups and social actors

BLOCK 2. Introduction to the government of the territory

Topic 3. The territory in the multilevel government

- Introduction to multi-level government: EU, State, Autonomous Communities and local authorities, relationships and powers.
- The metropolitan question and the overcoming of administrative limits by the urbanization process.
- The principle of subsidiarity: cities as actors in the EU, the State and the CCAA.
- The principle of local autonomy: definition and implications.

Topic 4. Local resources

- The basic principles: autonomy, solidarity and sufficiency
- Local income: taxes, fees, transfers and wealth
- Local investment and spending
- Resources and territory: the problem of fiscal loss

Topic 5. The welfare state and territorial government

- Origins and evolution.
- Compared models.
- Local governments in the framework of the Welfare State.
- The Welfare State in Spain and the impacts of the economic crisis.

Topic 6. Electoral systems

- Definition and functions of the electoral system.
- The elements of the electoral system: electoral body, constituency, allocation, formula and minimum barrier.
- The electoral system models: majority and proportional systems
- Electoral systems and territorial problems

BLOCK 3. Politics and local government

Topic 7. The reasons of the Local Government: territory, autonomy and democracy in comparative perspective

- Theoretical foundations of local government.
- Models of local government in Europe in comparative perspective.
- Cities and territories in a global-local and multi-level government context. The right to the city.
- The rural-urban dichotomy and metropolitan governance.

Topic 8. Politics and local government

- The rules of the local democracy game: Electoral system and government formation.
- The map of local political actors.
- Urban planning and local politics
- New municipalism and dynamics of change in the local political arena.

Topic 9. Local authorities in Catalonia

- The debate on the territorial organization of public powers in Catalonia: origins and development
- Local administration of Catalonia: Provincial Councils, County Councils, Metropolitan Areas and Town Halls.
- Powers and powers of the municipalities.
- Financing, preparation and execution of the budget.
- Internal and external control systems.

Topic 10. Innovation and participation in local government

- Administrative transparency and open government.
- Network management in the public sector. Collaborative management.
- Participatory democracy at the local level.
- Social innovation and management of common goods.
- Evolution of electronic administration.
- Conflicts of interest, ethics and public administration.
- Digitization and territorial information in public administrations.

Methodology

Guided activities: face-to-face sessions to explain the syllabus and for the revision in the classroom of the exercises carried out throughout the course.

Supervised activities: review of the exercises proposed as an evaluation tool and that will be available in the virtual platform of the subject.

Autonomous activities: everything that should be done on behalf of students in preparation for the subject. It includes the consultation of diverse material (articles, reports, etc.) available in the virtual platform of the subject, as well as specialized bibliography, both the most general and the one that incidentally is quoted. The teacher does not follow any manual, despite the existence of several excellent ones in the market. Any suitable material may be used, such as newspaper articles, press magazines, etc.

In this topic, a sexist use of language will not be allowed in students' oral and written contributions.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			

Public presentation of a paper	8	0.32	3
Seminars for the discussion of texts and cases.	10	0.4	1
Theoretical lectures	27	1.08	2, 4
Type: Supervised			
Tutorial: individual and group tutorials for support for the accomplishment of the work and monitoring of the work done in the subject.	5	0.2	2, 4
Type: Autonomous			
Comprehensive individual reading of texts.	23	0.92	1
Elaboration of the course paper and the seminar papers.	20	0.8	1, 3
Study of theoretical contents.	20	0.8	3

Assessment

The evaluation of this subject is made up of the following evaluation activities:

- Final exam: 30% of the final grade.
- 4 Small seminar reports on readings and cases (in groups of 3-4 people): 40% of the final grade.
- Preparation of one of the 10 topics of the course (in groups of 3-4 people): 20%
- Oral presentation of the topic studied: 10% of the final grade.

The practical activities have an optional character (but they cannot be recovered if they have not been submitted).

Requirements for evaluation (1st call):

To obtain a minimum grade of 5 in the written test, in order to average with the other parts of the assessment. In case of not fulfilling this requirement, this note cannot be compensated with another and it will be submitted to the recovery process.

There is no obligation of a minimum score in the practical activities and the one obtained will be added to the others for the final grade of the subject. This means that they cannot be done, with the risk, however, that after the rest of the notes are not enough to pass the subject. Keep in mind that the optionality of the practices has a "price": they will be delivered within the established period (to be announced at the beginning of the course) and when it has finished they will not be admitted.

Requirements for recovery:

Failure to complete the written test will mean that the student must submit to the recovery. That is, in spite of the "mathematical" possibility that the student passes having delivered the practices and attended all the classroom sessions, it will not be so without such proof.

In case that the minimum grade required in the written test is not obtained, the affected person will need to submit to the recovery. The rest of the notes will be saved for the final grade.

As for the practical activities, only the recovery (or improvement of grade) of one will be accepted, as long as it has been delivered within the established term throughout the semester. That is to say, in the case of practices, re-evaluation does not imply being able to deliver one that has not been done before.

On the other hand, no other "alternative" evaluation mechanism is foreseen (presentation of a paper, reading reviews, etc.).

The oral presentation cannot be re-evaluated or recovered.

According to UAB regulations, in order to participate in the recovery process, a minimum grade in the average of the subject must have been obtained. This rating will equal or exceed 3.5. (These conditions are adapted to the regulations on the evaluation of the UAB in Article 112. The recovery http://www.uab.cat/doc/Modificacio_normativa_academica_CG120717).

The teaching team of the subject does not follow any specific manual. For specific information on any question of the subject, the student should consult directly with the teaching team that will provide references in the form of press articles, academic journals, web, books and reference manuals, etc. Throughout the course, each subject will be provided with the appropriate bibliography through the Moodle platform for this specific subject.

Consideration of "Not Evaluable"

In accordance with the Academic Regulations approved, and modified by the Governing Council on March 19, 2015, the consideration of NOT EVALUABLE will apply to all those students who do not deliver the written test, nor a minimum of two of the others evaluative evidence.

Plagiarism

The copying or plagiarism of material, both in the case of works and in the case of exams, constitute a crime that will be sanctioned with a zero to the activity. In the case of recidivism, the entire subject will be suspended. Let's remember that a "copy" is considered a work that reproduces all or most of the work of one or the other company / a. "Plagiarism" is the fact of presenting all or part of a text of an author as its own, without mentioning the sources, be on paper or in digital format. See UAB documentation on "plagiarism" at: http://wuster.uab.es/web_argumenta_obert/unit_20/sot_2_01.html.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Procedure for Reviewing Grades Awarded

On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

In the event that tests or exams cannot be taken onsite, they will be adapted to an online format made available through the UAB's virtual tools (original weighting will be maintained). Homework, activities and class participation will be carried out through forums, wikis and/or discussion on Teams, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
4 Seminar papers about readings and cases	40%	20	0.8	1, 3
Course topic preparation	20%	10	0.4	1, 2, 3, 4
Final exam	30%	2	0.08	2, 4
Oral presentation course topic	10%	5	0.2	3, 4

Bibliography

The basic bibliography will be specified during the course, through Moodle.

Some interesting references for monitoring the course and the seminars are:

- Blanco, I., Gomà, R. (2002). *Gobiernos locales y redes participativas*. Barcelona: Ariel.
- Blanco, I., Gomà, R. (2016). *El municipalisme del bé comú*. Barcelona: Icària.
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- Blanco, I., Nel-lo, O. (Eds.) (2018). *Barrios y Crisis. Crisis económica, segregación urbana e innovación social en Cataluña*. València: Ed. Tirant.
- Blanco, I., Salazar, Y, Bianchi, I. (2019). "Urban governance and political change under a radical left government. The case of Barcelona", *Journal of Urban Affairs*. Published online.
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- Donat, C. (2017) "Els set reptes dels nous plans i polítiques locals d'habitatge", a DDAA, *Repensar la metropoli: noves claus per a un projecte col·lectiu*. Barcelona: IERMB-AMB.
- Flint, C. & Taylor, P.J. (2018). *Political Geography. World-economy, natio-state and locality*. Seventh edition. Routledge.
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- Kerley, R. J., Liddle, J. Dunning, P. (Eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of International Local Government*. London: Routledge.
- Longo, F., Ysa T. (Eds.) (2007). *Els Escenaris de la Gestió Pública del Segle XXI*. Barcelona: EAPC.
- Méndez, R. (2011). *El nuevo mapa geopolítico del mundo*. Tirant Lo Blanch
- Observatorio Metropolitano (2014). *La apuesta municipalista. La democracia empieza por lo cercano*. Madrid: Traficantes de sueños. Cap. 3.
- Potter, R.; Binnis, T.; Elliot, J.A. ; Nel, E. & Smith, D.W. (2018). *Geographies of Development. An introduction to development studies*. Fourth edition. Routledge.
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