

Comparative Politics II

Code: 101080
ECTS Credits: 6

2024/2025

Degree	Type	Year
2500259 Political Science and Public Management	OB	3
2503778 International Relations	OB	3

Contact

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

Comparative Politics I

Objectives and Contextualisation

The main objective of this course is to provide theoretical and methodological tools relevant for the comparative analysis of politics across the world. The course covers a broad span of types of political regimes including both democratization and autocratic resilience and the factors that might help us understand these processes. Students will engage with lectures on different themes across in particular the Americas, Africa and Asia.

This course follows on from comparative politics 1 which focuses on the study of mainly EU countries.

Competences

- Political Science and Public Management
- Applying the knowledge of the structure and operations of political institutions to problems and practical, real or simulated cases.
- Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.

- Connecting the different components that shape the structure and operations of political systems and the environment where they interact.
- Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
- Demonstrating knowledge about the structure and working of the European Union and its main institutions, as well as identifying the main political actors and recognising the main means of integration.
- Demonstrating the comprehension of the structure and functioning of political systems in the internal and international arena, both in the analytic area and in the elaboration of intervention proposals or public policies.
- Demonstrating the understanding of the structure and operations of political institutions.
- Identifying sources of data and conducting bibliographic and documentary searches.
- Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.
- Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
- Managing the main theoretical formulations about political institutions and connecting them with the global structure of political systems, both in the internal and international arenas.
- Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
- Working autonomously.
- Working in teams and networking, particularly in interdisciplinary conditions.

International Relations

- Analyse cases and phenomena in the international sphere and interpret different political texts using contemporary political theories.
- Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse the public policies of different countries and political systems.
2. Analysing the electoral processes, including campaigns, parties' electoral strategies, political scenarios and analysis and interpretation of electoral results.
3. Arguing from different theoretical perspectives.
4. Connecting the different components that shape the structure and operations of political systems and the environment where they interact.
5. Demonstrating good writing skills in different contexts.
6. Demonstrating knowledge about the structure and working of the European Union and its main institutions, as well as identifying the main political actors and recognising the main means of integration.
7. Demonstrating the comprehension of the structure and functioning of political systems in the internal and international arena, both in the analytic area and in the elaboration of intervention proposals or public policies.
8. Draw up comparative analyses of different political systems, identifying the way in which differences and similarities are argued.
9. Explaining political, individual and collective attitudes and behaviours, as well as the education process and expression of political preferences.
10. Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
11. Identify the main actor, structure and operation of different political systems .
12. Identify the main actors, structures and operation of internal and international political systems from a comparative perspective.
13. Identifying and distinguishing the functioning of the electoral processes.
14. Identifying sources of data and conducting bibliographic and documentary searches.
15. Interpreting and applying English texts in an academic way.

16. Managing the available time in order to accomplish the established objectives and fulfil the intended task.
17. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
18. Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
19. Synthesizing and critically analysing information.
20. Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.
21. Working autonomously.
22. Working in teams and networking, particularly in interdisciplinary conditions.

Content

Introduction

- State formation and democracy
- Theories of democratic development
- Theories of autocratic resilience
- How to measure and compare democracy

Political regimes, institutions and mobilization

- Presidentialism in comparative perspective
- Federalism and secessionism
- Populism in Latin America and Asia
- International migration and democratization

Further regional perspectives

- Democracy and Autocracy in the Middle East
- Electoral democracies and autocracies in Africa
- Asian political development, China and India.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures and seminars	49.5	1.98	1, 3, 4, 7, 11, 12, 17, 22
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	4	0.16	

Type: Autonomous

Individual study	30	1.2	10, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21
Reading	30	1.2	15, 16, 18
Writing	15	0.6	3, 5, 14, 17, 19, 20, 22

Directed activities:

- Lectures by the instructor
- Seminars: discussion of readings and exercises
- Presentation of papers: presentations by groups, comments and evaluation

Supervision:

- Individual support to write papers and follow up of the course

Autonomous activities:

- Readings: papers, articles, book chapters
- Individual study
- Writing papers and completing exercises: question on readings, comparative analysis of various countries following the guidelines provided by instructors.
- Evaluation: Individual exercises, written exams.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Exam	40%	3.5	0.14	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
Group Paper	30%	10	0.4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
Readings control and presentations	30%	8	0.32	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22

- The evaluation of this subject will be made from the following deliveries by the student:
Exam: 40% of the grade.
- Reading and exercise controls in seminars: 30% of the grade
- Course paper: 30% of the grade, group paper of 2-4 students (depending on class size) on one of the proposed topics.

Important considerations:

- The course cannot be passed without a grade in all three forms of evaluation of this course: seminars, group paper and exam. If a student has not done the seminars or the group paper, she will not take the exam as she will not be able to pass the course.

- The course cannot be passed without passing the exam. The exam may not be exactly the same for the groups of morning and afternoon.
- Strict application of the rule of being present at the seminar to have access to the reading control.
- Mandatory presentation of the different parts of the group paper during the course on the date indicated. Those who do not participate, will lose 1 point out of 10 for each delivery they do not make.
- There are two exam dates. Those who pass on the first date will not be able to appear on the second. Only those who have failed on the first date may appear on the second date.

Bibliography

Basic, more specific readings for seminars to be provided at beginning of course.

Boix, Carles and Susan C. Stokes (eds.) (2007). *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Croissant, Aurel and Philip Lorenz (2018), *Comparative Politics of Southeast Asia*, Amsterdam: Springer

Levitsky, Steven and Daniel Ziblatt (2019), *How Democracies Die*, New York: Crown.

Linz, Juan (1990) "The Perils of presidentialism" *Journal of democracy*, Vol 1, N.1

Meredith, Martin (2005) *The State of Africa, A History of Fifty Years of Independence*. Free press

Roitman Rosenmann, Marcos (2019) *Por la Razón o la Fuerza. Historia y Memoria de los Golpes de Estado, Dictaduras y Resistencias en América Latina*, Ed. Siglo XXI España.

Siaroff, A. (2022). *Comparing Political Regimes: A Thematic Introduction to Comparative Politics*. University of Toronto Press.

Software

Freedom House, VDEM, Polity IV, Economist Intelligence Unit

Language list

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(SEM) Seminars	1	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(SEM) Seminars	51	Catalan	second semester	afternoon
(TE) Theory	1	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	51	Catalan	second semester	afternoon