

History of Modern Political Thought and Political Cultures

Code: 100366
ECTS Credits: 6

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Degree	Type	Year
History	OT	4

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Teaching groups languages

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

Prerequisites

For now, no prerequisite. However, for a better formative coherence, we recommend doing the subjects Culture and Mentalities in the Modern Era and History of social movements in the contemporary era.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The main objective of the subject is to provide the instruments and analytical resources that allow to approach the world of the ideas, concepts and values manifested by contemporary political cultures. We will treat both the most renowned authors and all those who escape from the official canon and come from the popular sectors. In this exploration we will also attend the creation and transformation of the spaces of opinion production (the living room, the tavern, the coffee, the press, the parliament, the public square ...). The chronological framework contemplates from the fall of the old regime in the late eighteenth century to the global crisis of the late twentieth century. A universe, then, plural and diverse, permeable to European and American influences, but also to those of the Arab and Muslim world.

Competences

- Applying the main methods, techniques and instruments of the historical analysis.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Identifying the main historiographical tendencies and critically analysing their development.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- 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.
- 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 in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analysing the main social and political movements of the 19th and 20th centuries.
2. Communicating in your mother tongue or other language both in oral and written form by using specific terminology and techniques of Historiography.
3. Engaging in debates about historical facts respecting the other participants' opinions.
4. Identifying the main and secondary ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
5. Organising and planning the search of historical information.
6. Properly using the specific vocabulary of History.
7. Reading and interpreting the historical documents produced in the contemporary era.
8. Recognising diversity and multiculturalism.
9. Solving problems autonomously.
10. Submitting works in accordance with both individual and small group demands and personal styles.
11. Using the characteristic computing resources of the field of History.

Content

HISTORY OF THOUGHT AND CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL CULTURES.

General objectives: Introduction to the study of the ideas, languages, and arguments of the main currents of contemporary political and social thought. We will deal with the configuration of the great political cultures in the society of the 19th and 20th centuries and the present time. We will pay special attention to its circulation and reception in Spain and Catalonia.

Syllabus:

1. Presentation: 1.1. Political thought in historiography. 1.2. Beyond texts and canonical authors: the production, communication, and socialization of ideas. 1.3. The history of concepts, languages, and discourses. 1.4. Laboratory of concepts: political culture, public opinion, political identity, political metaphors, hegemony, and political values. 1.5. The mutation of public and private spaces: the parish, the café and the tavern, the school, the army, the Athenaeum, the meeting and the mass media. The satirical press and the power of the image.
2. The tree of freedom: political and economic liberalism. The diversity of illustrated heritages. Doctrinalism and utilitarianism. The debate on individualism. From Locke to Constant, passing through Smith and Bentham, Paoli, Jefferson, Jovellanos and the Cadiz Constitution. The Declaration of the Rights of Women and Citizens. The coffee and press revolution.
3. The battle of tradition: the ideological bases of the counter-revolution (France and Spain), and of conservatism (England and Spain); the religious revival in European bourgeois society and the origins of Spanish national Catholicism. From Barruel to Dou, passing through Burke, Balmes and Donoso. The political culture of Carlism.
4. The slow progress of democracy: Natural Rights; European Jacobinism; democrats, utopians and republicanism in Spain. Freethinking From Rousseau to Paine, passing through Robespierre, Romero Alpuente, Xaudaró, Castelar and Pi i Margall. Republican political theory, criticism of State nationalisms and the political culture of the federals.
5. Political romanticism (liberal/progressive or reactionary). Nationalism as an ideology: existing theoretical models, the cultural construction of nations. Rousseau and Fichte, passing through Renan, Cánovas and Kraussism; Spanish nationalism with liberal roots and national Catholicism; Roca and Farreras, Prat de la Riba and Rovira and Virgili. The political culture of Catalanism. 1898 and the regenerationist crisis.
6. Criticism against the capitalist system: Utopias and the invention of the future. Socialism, anarchism, and communism. The Paris Commune, social democracy and Leninism. From Marx and Engels to Proudhon and Bakunin, through Pablo Iglesias, Bernstein and Lenin. Culture and sociability in Spanish socialism and anarchism. The woman in socialist thought.

7. The crisis of reason and the challenge of mass society: the modernization of the French right, the theory of elites, fascism, and authoritarian updating. From Maurras to Pareto, through Ortega and Schmitt. Reactionary modernism as a cultural project to overcome the old liberalism. Anti-parliamentarism and criticism of corruption. Darwinism, racism and biologism.

8. The era of catastrophe: Nazism and Auschwitz; the political culture of Stalinism.

9. The ideological bases of post-war liberal democracies and the Welfare State. J. M. Keynes.

10. The new social movements: the fight for civil rights, women's emancipation, May 1968, and the counterculture. The rediscovery of Gramsci. Decolonial thought (F. Fanon, among others).

11. "The return of God": Catholic fundamentalism, American fundamentalism, and political Islamism. From Reagan, Khomeini, and John Paul II.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Attendance to the theoretical and practical classes in the classroom or online and integration of the acquired knowledge.	35	1.4	1, 4, 3, 8, 11
Paired learning exercises. Practices.	15	0.6	2, 7, 5, 3, 10, 6, 11
Paused learning exercises. Questionnaire.	10	0.4	9, 2, 4, 7, 10, 6, 11
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials.	15	0.6	9, 2, 5, 3
Type: Autonomous			
Student self-employment, improvement of their critical training.	75	3	9, 2, 7, 5, 3, 8, 6, 11

Assistance to lectures led by the teacher.

Assistance to sessions of seminars and practices directed by the teacher in the classroom or online and in the special rooms of the Humanities Library.

Attendance at private tutorials at the professor's office or online.

Comprehensive reading of historical texts from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Learn search strategies for information in libraries, hypermarkets and on the web.

Carrying out analytical work and comments.

Presentations and interventions in the classroom.

Personal study strategies.

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

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Oral exhibitions of readings of articles or from historical documents	25%	0	0	9, 2, 7, 3, 8, 6
Questionnaire based on the reading of a text about the history of ideas and thought.	25%	0	0	1, 4, 7, 10, 6, 11
Two partial exams, one in between and one at the end of the course.	50%	0	0	1, 9, 2, 4, 7, 5, 6, 11

Continuous Evaluation:

1) Two written tests:

The first test will take place in the middle of the course (evaluation 25%).

It will deal with the subject worked on during the midterm. Four questions. One of them will deal with a compulsory reading article posted in the Virtual Campus.

The second written test will take place at the end of the course (25% evaluation).

It will deal with the topic worked on during the second part of the course. Four questions. One of them will deal with a compulsory reading article posted in the Virtual Campus.

Important: The average of these two tests must be passed positively (at least a 5).

2) Practicals and assignments:

Questionnaire prepared with secondary sources in the form of articles available on the net or books. The work will be defined at the beginning of the course and complemented with the use of primary sources (visits to archives, documentation centers or sources available on the net). Maximum 8 pages. Valuation 25%. Due date: coinciding with the second midterm, at the end of the course. Required: In order to complete the Questionnaire it is necessary that the objectives and work plan of the same are fixed during the first three weeks of the course in visits to the office and in tutoring schedules. Otherwise, it will be considered not evaluable.

3) Oral exposition, plus attendance (10%), follow-up and participation in classroom work with diverse documentation -reading the dossier and articles-, as well as in the tutorials in the professor's office (total 25%).

Only the evaluation activities delivered within the deadlines established by the professor of the subject will be recovered; in no case may an exercise be presented for the first time during the Recovery test.

The practices or works (and the participation, attendance and progression), are not recovered. In case the student has taken the two partial exams and not the rest of the evidences, and/or has not attended class without a justified cause, he/she will be considered a Not Evaluable.

Copying written sources (using Artificial Intelligence, Internet, other people's works, etc.) will mean a 0 in the grade of the exercise and the student will miss the total of the course. All the works will be presented in "paper" format.

The date of the recovery is unique and fixed by the Secretary of the Faculty.

Single Evaluation:

It will consist of the sum of a single Written Test (50%), plus the delivery of a Work (Questionnaire) (25%), and the completion of a Practical (elaboration of a Poster) (25%).

Written Test:

It will deal with the subject corresponding to the program of the course. Throughout the course I will post texts in the Virtual Campus. These articles, all of them available on the net, will be compulsory reading. Some of the questions of the written test will be related to these articles.

Questionnaire:

Written from secondary sources from articles available on the net or from monographs in book format. Work that will be defined at the beginning of the course and complemented with the use of primary sources (visits to archives, documentation centers or sources available on the net). Maximum 8 pages. Due date: coinciding with the written test and with the second partial of the students of continuous evaluation, at the end of the course.

Obligatory: In order to carry out the work, it is necessary that the objectives and work plan of the same are fixed during the first three weeks of the course in visits to the office and in tutoring schedules. Otherwise, it will be considered not evaluable.

Poster:

Delivery of a poster on a topic that must include readings and that will be indicated at the beginning of the course.

Practicals or papers are not to be recovered. For academic purposes, a student who has completed less than one third of the evaluable evidences of the total of the course will be considered as not evaluable.

In the Single Evaluation, if the sum of the three final grades is lower than 3.5 points, the student will fail the course and will not be able to recover.

Copying written sources (using Artificial Intelligence, Internet, other people's works, etc.) will mean a 0 in the grade of the exercise and the student will lose the total of the subject. All the works will be presented in "paper" format.

The date of the recovery is unique and fixed by the Secretary of the Faculty.

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

To participate in the make-up program, students must either be previously assessed on a set of activities, the weight of which is equivalent to at least two-thirds of the total grade (CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT) or submit all the planned activities (SINGLE ASSESSMENT). In both cases (continuous and single assessment), to participate in the make-up process, the teacher in charge will require a minimum grade of 3.5 on the final average. In cases where this is not achieved, the student will fail the subject and will not be eligible for make-up.

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.

This subject allows the use of AI technologies exclusively for support tasks such as bibliographic or content-based searches. The student must clearly identify which parts have been generated using AI technology; specify the tools used, and include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and final outcome of the activity. Lack of transparency regarding the use of AI in the assessed activity will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade may be lowered, or the work may even be awarded a zero. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

Bibliography

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- Note: the specific Bibliography of each topic will be provided in the classroom.
- **Web resources:** *Biblioteca digital Saavedra Fajardo Universitat de Múrcia; Revista d'Història Constitucional; Projecte Iberconceptes; bases de dades a Dialnet i JSTOR; google books; Memòria Digital de Catalunya; Hemeroteca Digital Històrica (Biblioteca Nacional, Ministeri de Cultura); fons digital Biblioteca de Catalunya; fons digital Arxiu Congrés de Diputats; Gallica (fons Biblioteca Nacional de França).*
- How to cite and prepare the Bibliography:
<https://www.uab.cat/web/estudia-i-investiga/com-citar-i-elaborar-la-bibliografia-1345708785665.html>".

Software

Any remark

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed