

Public Management and Urban Policies

Code: 106952
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Management of Smart and Sustainable Cities	OB	3

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

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

Prerequisites

The student should be interested in the political approach to local government, which brings together key issues of political science such as democracy, public policy analysis or public management, focused on the local perspective.

You should also have an interest on following the information about local government and local political issues that appear in the media.

The student should be able to read and understand academic documents in English.

It is assumed that the student knows, at least, the concepts and theories worked on in the subject Introduction to the Contemporary City of the 1st year, specially the urban governance issues.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This subject intends to address the new dynamics and urban challenges from a public policy approach that guarantees the quality of life, sustainability and equal opportunities and with the application of ICT as tools for facilitating the government of the cities.

The objectives of the subject are to know the basic elements of local governments: normative principles, structures, actors and policy agenda in order to achieve the ability to analyze with a critical and well-founded vision the reality of local government specially in Catalonia, but also studying cases from other cities of Spain or from other European Union countries.

Beyond analyzing trajectories of the past and present situations, we will also try to consider and analyze future alternatives based on the current discussions on municipalism.

The fact that local governments are the first step in the political and administrative structure and, at the same time, a near reality within the reach of each student, gives them a great specific weight. Apart from a study object of undoubted interest, local governments are also one of the most promising spaces for professional practice. For this reason, the course aims to articulate theoretical reflections on local governments with the study and debate of local practices, which will play a central role in the practical activities of the students focusing on the analysis of cases of sectorial public policies implemented in several cities.

Learning Outcomes

1. CM21 (Competence) Introduce measures to reduce gender inequalities in smart city policies and urban strategies.
2. KM27 (Knowledge) Describe the functioning and organisation of public institutional structures related to the governance of cities.
3. SM26 (Skill) Design a basic process of citizen participation in relation to smart city issues.

Content

BLOCK 1. Introduction to local government

Topic 1. Introduction to public management

- Bureaucratic model: characteristics, virtues and problems.
- Model and criticism of the New Public Management.
- New approaches: Deliberative Public Administration and Common Management.

Topic 2. Cities in the multilevel government

- Introduction to the multilevel government: EU, State, Autonomous Communities and local entities, relationships and competencies.
- The principle of subsidiarity: cities as an actor in the EU.
- The principle of local autonomy: definition and implications.

Topic 3. The welfare state and local government

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

BLOCK 2. Politics and local government

Topic 4. The reasons of the Local Government: territory, autonomy and democracy in comparative perspective

- Theoretical foundations of local government.
- Local government models in Europe in comparative perspective.

Cities and territories in a global-local context. The right to the city.

- The rural-urban dichotomy and metropolitan governance.

Topic 5. The local entities in Catalonia

- Local Administration in Catalonia: "Diputacions", "Consells Comarcals" and City councils.
- The rules of the game of local democracy: Electoral system of government formation.
- Attributions and competences of municipalities.
- Financing, preparation and execution of the budget.
- Internal and external control systems.

Topic 6. Innovation in local government

- Administrative transparency and open government.
- Management of networks 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.
- Digitisation and Artificial Intelligence in public administrations.

BLOCK 3. Local public policies

Topic 7. Wellbeing and social inclusion

- Social services.
- Dependency.
- Health.

- Functional diversity.
- Children and youth.
- Seniors.

Topic 8. Economy and work

- Treasury.
- Tourism.
- Commerce.
- Social economy.
- Local development and consumption.
- Companies and economic promotion.

Topic 9. Housing and public space

- Housing.
- Public space and urban planning.
- Rehabilitation of neighborhoods.

Topic 10. Ecology and mobility

- Ecology.
- Mobility.
- Water and energy.

Topic 11. Education and culture

- Education.
- Culture.

Topic 12. Rights of citizenship

- Feminism.
- LGTBI.
- Immigration and interculturality.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Public presentation of a paper: group presentations and round of assessments.	20	0.8	CM21, KM27, CM21
Seminars for the discussion of texts and cases.	10	0.4	CM21, SM26, CM21
Theoretical lectures: explanations by the teacher with ICT support and debate in a large group.	20	0.8	CM21, KM27, CM21
Type: Supervised			
Tutorial: individual and group tutorials for support for the accomplishment of the work and monitoring of the work done in the subject.	20	0.8	KM27, SM26, KM27
Type: Autonomous			
Elaboration of the course paper.	25	1	CM21, KM27,

Study: Carrying out diagrams and summaries of theoretical contents.	25	1	CM21, KM27, CM21
Texts reading: individual exercise of comprehensive text reading.	25	1	CM21, KM27, CM21

The course "Public Management and Urban Policies" of 3rd year of the Grade has 6 ECTS credits, that is, a total of 150 hours of student dedication (25 hours per credit). These are structured in the different types of training activities and teaching methodologies described below with the aim of combining a well-founded theoretical approach with practical exercises that allow a direct approach to the reality of local government.

The theoretical foundations will be exposed in the theoretical classes, that will be opened at all times to the participation of students for clarification and debate.

The fundamentals of the theory will be settled on the reading of texts and the autonomous study, both of the material exposed in the classes and other materials that will be indicated in class or through the Virtual Campus.

The study work will be complemented with individual exercises related to the seminar readings and cases, from which a debate will be held between the students and the students led by the teacher. During the course there will be a total of 10 seminars that will be worked orally in class and that may require some previous preparation work by the students. All seminars will be evaluated in relation to oral contributions to class. It will be communicated through the Virtual Campus sufficiently in advance in which concrete activities each seminar will consist and the necessary preparation on the part of the students.

The study work will be complemented with individual exercises related to the seminar readings and cases, from which a debate will be held between the students led by the lecturer. During the course, a total of 10 seminars will take place, 5 of which will include a written assignment and 5 more that will just be treated orally in class. All seminars will be evaluated both in terms of oral contributions in class and, where appropriate, written assignments. The specific activities in which each seminar will consist will be communicated through the VirtualCampus with enough time for the necessary preparation by students.

The practical paper will consist of an applied research paper on a local public policy chosen by the students from among the proposals made by the lecturer. The work will be carried out in teams of 3 to 4 people, with the exceptions that can be considered for working or other kinds of reasons duly justified.

On the days of oral presentations of papers, a round of questions will be made by the lecturer and the students. Finally, a debate will be opened on the set of topics addressed in the oral presentation. During the course, individual and group tutorials will be carried out for the accomplishment of the practical paper and on the follow-up of the course in the hours that will be previously fixed through the electronic mail at the request of the students as well as by indication of the lecturer. 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.

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Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Course paper	25% of the final grade	0.5	0.02	KM27, SM26
Final exam	30% of the final grade	4	0.16	CM21, KM27
Participation in seminars	25% of the final grade	0.5	0.02	CM21, KM27

The evaluation of this subject is composed of the following evaluation activities:

- Final exam: 50% of the final grade.
- Participation in the seminars: 25% of the final grade.
- Course work: 25% of the final grade (5% of the final grade the oral presentation and 15% the written paper).

Important considerations:

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- Passing the exam is a necessary but not sufficient condition to pass the subject.
- To pass the subject, it is a necessary condition to pass both the seminars, the coursework, and the exam.
- The dates of the seminars as well as the dates of deliveries and oral presentations of the coursework will be specified within the framework of the subject's programming through the Virtual Campus.
- Attendance at the seminar sessions is mandatory. Absences justified for medical or work reasons will not have any effect in terms of evaluation.
- Two partial exams will be held during the semester on the dates set by the Faculty, which will be made public well in advance and which students must corroborate through the Faculty's website.
- Students must notify the composition of the group and the topic chosen for the coursework through the Virtual Campus to the teacher during the first two weeks of the semester.
- The fact of appearing for the exam, or presenting the coursework or participating in at least 4 seminars exempts the student from the grade of "Not Presented".
- Students who have not passed all the seminars or the coursework or both, may submit a new written, individual work, determined by the teacher, to obtain the grade necessary to pass the assessment activities that had been failed. The teacher will specify to the students in this situation the characteristics and date of delivery of the corresponding work.
- Students who have not passed the exam may retake the failed exam on the day determined by the Faculty.
- Those students who have been qualified with Fail for not having achieved the minimum grade in any of the assessment activities will have the grade for which they have failed.
- MH will be granted to students who have obtained the two highest grades above 9.5.
- The review of grades will be done in person at the teacher's office.
- Any student who, for duly justified work or health reasons or because they are on an exchange program, cannot attend the course normally, must notify the teacher during the first two weeks of the semester in order to agree on the corresponding compensatory activities. If this notification occurs later without a justified reason, the student will not be able to pass the subject.
- There is no differentiated treatment for repeating students.
- This subject does not provide for the single assessment system.
- In the event of plagiarism, copying or any other irregularity in the assessment activities, the assignment will be suspended.
- Restricted use of AI: For this subject, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is allowed exclusively in support tasks, such as bibliographic or information searches, text correction or translations... The student must clearly identify which parts have been generated with this technology, specify the tools used and include a critical reflection on how these have influenced the process and the final result of the activity. The lack of transparency of the use of AI in this assessable activity will be considered a lack of academic honesty and may lead to a partial or total penalty in the grade of the activity, or greater sanctions in serious cases.

Bibliography

During the course, the obligatory and complementary readings will be specified through the Virtual Campus for the preparation and realization of the various training activities.

These are references that will facilitate the students to follow the subject and carry out the course work:

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Software

This subject does not include the use of any specific software.

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
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(PAUL) Classroom practices	611	Catalan	second semester	afternoon
(TE) Theory	61	Catalan	second semester	afternoon