UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Comparative Media Systems

Code: 42451
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Media, Communication and Culture	OT	0

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

Prerequisites

It is recommended (although not essential) a certain training in Structure and Communication Policies. The module is proposed thinking that it can bring together graduates in various areas of the Social Sciences, also coming from different geographical areas. It is essential to be linguistically competent in English, as well as in Spanish, in order to be able to work on the bibliography planned for the follow-up of the module.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The concept of media system refers to the set of economic, political and social actors that contribute to the articulation of social communication processes in a given territory (which may or may not be a State) and the interrelationships that are established between them. At the same time, the study of media systems can not be separated from the historical-cultural context in which they emerge, nor from other factors that can alter their configuration, such as technological advances and economic globalization (which tend to standardize systems).

In this module we start with the proposal of comparative analysis of media systems made in 2004 by Hallin and Mancini, focused on its political dimension, to achieve the following objectives:

a) Review the theoretical model of Hallin and Mancini, as well as the criticisms he has received and the replies from the same authors, with the purpose of reflecting on their suitability and applicability in different contexts.

b) From the previous reflection, propose a case study on a specific aspect of a media system taking into account the dimensions and variables most suitable for study.

Competences

- Analyse the impact of media groups' strategies of social communication with the aim of promoting new, participative forms of culture and communication.
- Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously.
- Lead and work in interdisciplinary teams.
- Plan, direct and evaluate policies on culture and communication in both the local and the international fields using the new forms of social communication

- Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze and evaluate public communication policies.
2. Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously.
3. Designing and evaluating communication policies in the new technological environment.
4. Identify and analyze access of civil society to the media.
5. Identify and analyze the role of emerging actors (social) media systems.
6. Identify and analyze the role of hegemonic actors (economic and political) in media systems.
7. Lead and work in interdisciplinary teams.
8. Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.

Content

Eight of the ten sessions of the module will be structured around the following axes:
1 Presentation of the course and delimitation of the concept and articulating elements of the media systems.
2 Sociopolitical theories and dimensions of analysis in the work of Hallin and Mancini
3 Pluralized pluralist media systems
4 Corporate democratic media systems
5 Liberal media systems
6 The homogenization of the models
7 Criticisms and replies to the proposal of Hallin and Mancini
8 Applicability in other contexts

The two remaining sessions will be devoted to the presentation and discussion of the case studies (application of the Hallin and Mancini model to specific systems) carried out by the students. Depending on the number of students enrolled, the schedule provided for the presentations of the case studies may vary slightly.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Seminar	15	0.6	8, 2, 7
theory	15	0.6	8, 2, 7
Type: Supervised			
Evaluation	3	0.12	8, 2
tutorials	9	0.36	8, 2
Type: Autonomous			
personal study	105	4.2	8, 2

The teaching approach of the subject combines sessions of face-to-face class with a regulated activity of autonomous and individual work on the part of the students. The face-to-face sessions will be based on: 1)

teacher's expositions; 2) debates around the issues examined, based on readings indicated to students in advance; and 3) presentation of the case studies carried out by the students.

The training activities that the students will have to develop autonomously include reading the texts that will be discussed in class, and preparing an analysis on an aspect with concrete of a media system of their choice. The discussion on the relevance and pertinence of the case studies proposed by the students will be agreed upon in class, although their follow-up will be carried out, also, through individual tutorials.

The development of the course will address the incorporation of the gender perspective, whether in the contents, sources or work dynamics.

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
essay	50%	1	0.04	8, 2, 7
follow-up test	25%25%	2	0.08	8, 3, 5, 6, 4, 2, 1, 7

The evaluation will be based on:
a) Two follow-up tests that will verify to what extent the key ideas of the readings, the exhibitions and the debates made in the face-to-face sessions have been understood. Each one will be equivalent to 25% of the final grade.
b) The analysis of a specific aspect of the media system agreed upon with each student. It will be assessed from a brief essay (about 10 pages) and its presentation to the group.

This assessment activity allows the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies exclusively in support tasks such

The qualification of this work, which will be 50% of the final grade, will also take into account the preparation and execution of the oral presentation.
All evaluation activities are recoverable, provided that at least two have been made. To make the recovery it is necessary to have obtained a score between 3.5 and 4.9 in the average of the subject. The qualification of the tests that have passed the recovery will be a maximum of 5.
In case you can not attend one of the two follow-up tests for a justified reason that is documented, the student may be evaluated on this part on the day of the re-evaluation test. If the absence can not be justified, the percentage that corresponds to this test will be subtracted from the final grade.

The grade will be "non-evaluable" when the analysis work has not been submitted or if neither of the two follow-up tests has been taken.

Bibliography

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Software

No specific software is required

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
(TEm) Theory (master)	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	afternoon
(TEm) Theory (master)	40	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	afternoon