

Degree programme	Type	Course
Geography, Environmental Management and Regional Planning	OB	3

Contact lecturer

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Teaching staff

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Group languages

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

Prerequisites

To take this course, you must have a command of Catalan and/or Spanish equal to or higher than level B2.

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

The course aims to provide students with an introduction and basic knowledge of the relationships between politics and institutions, on the one hand, and territory, on the other. The content and part of the assessment are designed using a methodology inspired by challenge-based learning (CBL). At the beginning of the course, a challenge will be presented, which students will be required to address. Through teamwork, students will propose educational resources that improve the public's understanding, especially that of young people, of territorial policies and the functioning of institutions.

The course objectives include understanding the basic elements that shape local governments: regulatory principles, structures, actors, and policy agendas. This will enable students to critically and thoroughly analyze the reality of local government, particularly in Catalonia, but also by studying cases from across Spain and other European Union countries, as well as geographically. The course will also explore and analyze future alternatives based on current debates.

This course is closely related to "Urban Policies: Housing, Neighborhoods, and Mobility." The knowledge and skills acquired are considered essential for the students' training and future professional development. Therefore, this course is mandatory.

Another objective of this course is to familiarize students with regulations on plagiarism and copyright, as well

as to learn how to use different sources of information and cite them correctly.

Learning outcomes

- CM30 (Convey information in a clear, explanatory and concise manner, applying the argumentative procedures of formal discourse in written work or oral presentations on introductory aspects of political science.) Convey information in a clear, explanatory and concise manner, applying the argumentative procedures of formal discourse in written work or oral presentations on introductory aspects of political science.
- KM46 (Describe the main concepts of the relations between politics and society in Spain and Catalonia within the field of study.) Describe the main concepts of the relations between politics and society in Spain and Catalonia within the field of study.
- KM47 (Define the basic elements that make up local governments: regulatory principles, structures, actors and policy agenda.) Define the basic elements that make up local governments: regulatory principles, structures, actors and policy agenda.
- KM48 (List the main features of the territorial organisation of public administration, with special reference to Spain and Catalonia.) List the main features of the territorial organisation of public administration, with special reference to Spain and Catalonia.
- SM42 (Analyse the functioning of political institutions at different levels of administration.) Analyse the functioning of political institutions at different levels of administration.
- SM43 (Use the scientific and professional language of the social sciences.) Use the scientific and professional language of the social sciences.

Contents

Topic 1. Politics, Power, and Territory: The Question of the State

Topic 2. Multilevel Government: The EU and the Territorial Organization of the State

Topic 3. Organization of Local Governments in Catalonia: Local Resources and Funding

Topic 4. Electoral Systems: Governance and Social Cohesion

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Seminars for the discussion of texts and cases (class participation)	10	0.4	KM47, KM48
Study of theoretical contents.	30	1.2	KM46
Theoretical lectures	31	1.24	CM30, KM46, KM47
Preparation of activities	20	0.8	KM47, KM48, SM43
Library course	3	0.12	
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	CM30
Comprehensive individual reading of texts.	22	0.88	KM46,

				KM47, KM48
Public presentation of a challenge	7	0.28	CM30, KM48, SM43	
Development of the challenge and the resulting resource	20	0.8	CM30, KM46, KM48, SM43	

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.

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.

Challenge-Based Learning (CBL): development throughout the semester of an informative resource to facilitate the understanding, by citizens and specifically young people, of territorial policies and the functioning of institutions.

To pass this subject, you must complete the module of the UAB library service's training course on plagiarism and copyright.

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

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	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Final exam	40%	2	0.08	KM46, KM47, KM48, SM43
Resource to address the challenge	25%	0	0	CM30, KM46, KM47, SM42, SM43
Oral presentation course topic (class participation)	15%	0	0	CM30, SM43
2 classroom practices (with mandatory in-person attendance)	20%	0	0	KM46, SM42, SM43

This course uses the single assessment system explained at the end of this section.

The continuous assessment for this course consists of the following assessment activities:

- Final exam: 40% of the final grade.

- Two classroom exercises in groups of 3-4 people (one on stakeholder maps and the other on institutional data): 20% of the final grade. These exercises contribute to the development of the response to the challenge.
- Proposed resource to address the challenge presented at the beginning of the course (in groups of 3-4 people): 25% of the final grade.
- Oral presentation of the developed resource: 15% of the final grade.

The practical activities are mandatory (they cannot be retaken if they were not submitted, or if the grade is lower than 3.5).

For the first practical exercise, to receive the grade, it will be necessary to include the certificate of the LIBRARY TRAINING MODULE, which will be provided at the beginning of the course. The application of the learning from this course will be one of the assessment criteria for the final challenge.

The schedule of assessment tests cannot be modified (except in justified exceptional cases). Erasmus students requesting to take an exam earlier must submit a written document from their home university to the teaching team justifying their request.

Assessment requirements (1st call):

A minimum grade of 5 on the written exam is required to calculate the weighted average with the other parts of the assessment.

If this requirement is not met, this grade cannot be compensated with another, and the student will have to take the resit.

Submission of the practical work is mandatory. Attendance is mandatory for its completion, and the work must be submitted within the established period (which will be announced at the beginning of the course). Submissions will not be accepted after the deadline (except for students enrolled in the Single Assessment).

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.

Requirements for recovery:

Failure to take the written exam will require students to take the retake. That is, despite the "mathematical" possibility of passing by submitting the assignments and attending all class sessions, this will not be the case without the written exam.

If the minimum required grade is not obtained on the written exam, the affected student must take the retake. The remaining grades will be used for the final grade.

Regarding assignments, only one assignment may be retaken (or grade improved), provided it was submitted within the established deadline during the semester (except for students opting for a single assessment). In other words, for assignments, re-evaluation does not allow the submission of an assignment that has not been previously completed and evaluated.

Furthermore, no other "alternative" assessment mechanism is foreseen (submission of a paper, reading reviews, etc.).

The oral presentation cannot be re-evaluated or retaken.

According to UAB regulations, to participate in the retake process, a minimum grade in the course average must have been obtained. This grade must be equal to or higher than 3.5. (These conditions are adapted to the UAB's assessment regulations in Article 112 ter. Retake

"Not Assessable" Status

Students will receive a "Not Assessable" grade if they have not submitted more than 30% of the assessment activities.

Copying or Plagiarism

This subject allows the use of AI technologies exclusively for support tasks such as bibliographic or content-based searches, text correction or translations.

The student must clearly (i) identify which parts have been generated using AI technology; (ii) specify the tools used; and (iii) 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.

SINGLE ASSESSMENT

The single assessment does not imply any changes to the teaching model nor is it related to in-person attendance; students must continue attending class as usual. It involves a single assessment date but not a single assessment activity. Therefore, students who have requested the single assessment system within the deadline established by the faculty will have to take the following individual assessment:

- Final Exam (40% of the final grade). To be taken on the same day and time as the rest of the group. The date will be announced in the syllabus at the beginning of the course.
- Two compulsory practical sessions (20% of the final grade). In the first practical session, in order to obtain the grade, it will be mandatory to include the certificate of completion of the LIBRARY TRAINING MODULE, which will be reported at the beginning of the course. The delivery of these practical sessions will be carried out on the same day as the written exam.
- Preparation of a resource that responds to the challenge proposed at the beginning of the course following the same instructions as the continuous assessment (25%). The delivery of the resulting product will be on the same day as the exam by the means established.
- Oral presentation of the challenge worked on (15%), of a duration equivalent to the presentation in class by the rest of the students (approx. 5 minutes).

The same assessment method as continuous assessment will be used.

Bibliography

This subject does not follow any specific manual. The bibliography will be specified during the course, through Moodle, according to topics and social and editorial news.

Basic bibliographical references:

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https://www.diba.cat/documents/192458/228032110/1a_sessio_Cataleg_de_Serveis_curs+2018.pdf/d9e6c318-16
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Software

None in particular except the usual office tools.

Course groups and languages

The information provided is provisional until November 30. After this date, you will be able to consult the language of each group through this [link](#). To access the information, you will need to enter the course CODE

Type of teaching	Group	Language	Semester	Shift
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan/Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan/Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed