



UNIVERSIDAD  
DE GRANADA



CENTRO DE  
LENGUAS  
MODERNAS

**CURSOS DE LENGUA Y CULTURA EN  
INGLÉS  
SOCIOLOGY, POLITICS AND  
ECONOMICS  
THE POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF SPAIN AND  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## THE POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF SPAIN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to teach the basic foundations of contemporary politics and history of Spain while also describing the main elements, which constitute the political system of the European Union. Starting with a basic method for interpreting the political reality, a dynamic understanding of the current workings of both Spain and the European Union as a whole is provided.

### CONTENTS

#### THEORETICAL CONTENTS:

Unit 1. Conceptual clarification in Political Science.

Unit 2. Comparative Method and Classifications of Political Systems.

Unit 3. An introduction to the European Union: Political Nature and Historical Evolution.

Unit 4. The political system of the European Union: A Consociational Polity.

Unit 5. Politics and Government in the European Union: elections, electoral behavioral, decision-making and public policies.

Unit 6. The Political System of Spain.

Unit 7. Politics and Government in Spain: political parties, elections, electoral behaviour, public policies and national versus regional identities.

Unit 8. The European Union and its citizens: European and Spanish Public Opinion

## CONTENTS

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Unit 9. The main challenges of the European integration: The Turkish application, euro-skepticism, far right populism, centrifugal nationalism, and mutual perceptions between Muslims and non-Muslims in Europe.

### WORKSHOPS:

- *Presidentialism versus Parliamentarism: Pros and Cons*
- *Religion and European Integration*
- *The technocratic nature of the European Commission*
- *Territorial representation in Federal High Chambers: a comparative approach*
- *Electoral Behaviour in National and European Elections*
- *Public Opinion and Euro-scepticism in Europe*

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

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Lectures by the instructor, supported with bibliographical and other didactic materials, followed by debates with the students. The class will follow a seminar format. This presupposes that the readings assigned for each week have been made before we meet in class. At the beginning of each class, the instructor will introduce the materials and allow some time for questions of clarification. Thereafter, we will have a seminar discussion. Students will be invited to express their views on the materials for the class and the criticisms made during the presentation. Both the presentations and the discussions around them are expected to be respectful, professional and anchored in the class materials.



## ASSESSMENT

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**Participation** in class will account for 20% of the final grade. So STUDENTS are strongly recommended to actively participate in class. Active participation is also an essential part of the learning process, so in class you have a wonderful opportunity to exercise and enhance your ability to speak in public, which is an essential part of politics, education and citizenship.

**Weekly assignments.** The weekly assignments count for 20% of the final grade. These research papers are short analytical pieces of about one or two pages long, and the topic will be proposed by the instructor every week. Students will deliver the papers by e-mail before the fixed deadline. Late papers will not be accepted.

**Exams.** The mid-term and the final exam count each for 30% of your final grade. They will be in-class examinations which will primarily focus on the reading materials and lectures but will also ask for your point of view, and arguments backing it up.

- Student participation: 20%
- Mid-term exam: 30%
- Final exam: 30%
- Weekly assignments: 20%

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### REQUIRED READINGS:

The required readings will be provided by the instructor during the course and sent (email) to the students every week before the start of each unit.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Pr.Dr. Thomas Schmitz, *Die Verfassung der Europäischen Union*, Georg August Universität Göttingen – Juristische Fakultät, 2005.

Martin J. Dedman, *Origins and Development of the European Union 1945-2008*, Routledge, Second Edition, London, 2010.

European Commission, *How the European Union Works, The European Union Explained*, Brussels, 2013.

Matthew Loveless and Robert Rohrschneider, "Public perceptions of the EU as a system of governance", *Living Reviews in European Governance*, Vol. 6, 2011, nº 2.

C., *Spain and the European Union*, Houndmills: Palgrave MacMillan, 2004.

## ADDITIONAL AND RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- ALCANTARA, M., *Los Sistemas Políticos de la Unión Europea*, Tirant Lo Blanc, Valencia, 2000.
- ALMOND, G.A., DALTON, R.J., POWELL, G.B., JR, *European Politics Today*, Longman, 2002.
- BALE, T., *European politics: a comparative introduction*, Palgrave, Houndmills (England), 2005.
- BOMBERG, PETERSON, STUBB, *The European Union: How does it work?* Bomberg, Peterson, Oxford, 2008.
- CINI, M., *European Union Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2010.
- CLOSA, C., *Sistema Político de la Unión Europea*, Estudios Complutense, Madrid, 1997.
- CLOSA, C., *Spain and the European Union*, Houndmills: Palgrave MacMillan, 2004.
- COLOMER, J.M. (ed), *Political Institutions in Europe*, Routledge, London, 2002.
- DANNEREUTHER, R., *European Union Foreign and security policy. Towards a neighbourhood strategy*, Routledge, Londres, 2005.
- DINAN, D., *Ever Closer union: an introduction to European Integration*, Palgrave MacMillan, 1999.
- EILSTRUP-SANGIOVANI, M., *Debates on European Integration*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2006.
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  - HENING, S., *Power and decision in Europe*, Europontentials Press, Londres, 1980.
  - HIX, S. and HOYLAND, B. *The political System of the European Union*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2011.
  - KESSELMAN, M. et al., *European politics in Transition*, Houghton Mifflin, 2002.
  - KEOHANE, R AND STANLEY HOFFMANN, *The new European community*, Westview Press, Oxford, 1991.
  - LANE, J-E and ERSSON, S., *European Politics. An introduction*, Sage Publications, 1996.
  - LANE, J-E and ERSSON, S., *Politics and society in Western Europe*, Sage Publications, 1999.
  - MAGONE, J.M., *Contemporary Spanish politics*, Routledge, Nueva York, 2004.
  - McCORMICK, J. *Understanding the European Union: a concise introduction*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2014.
  - MORATA, F. *La Unión Europea: procesos, actores y políticas*, Ariel Ciencia Política, Barcelona, 1998.
  - NUGENT, N., *The Government and politics of the European Union*, MacMillan Press LTD., Basingstoke, 2003.
  - NUGENT, N. and PATERSON, W. E., *Debates on European Integration*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2006.
  - PADGEN, A. ed. *The idea of Europe from antiquity to the European Union*, Woodrow Wilson Center Press, Washington D.C., 2002.
  - PETERSON, J. and SHACKLETON, M., *The institutions of the European Union*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2004.
  - PHINNEMORE, D., *A dictionary of the European Union*, Europa, London, 2002.
  - QUERMONNE, J-L., *Le Système politique de l'Union Européenne*, Montchrestien, Clefs-Politique, París, 1998.
  - RICHARDSON, J., *European Union : power and decision-making*,



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- SMITH, A., *Politics and the European Comission: actors, interdependence, legitimacy*. Routledge, Londres, 2004.
  - SMITH, K.E., *European Union Foreign Policy in a Changing World*, Polity, Cambridge, 2008.