



Universidad  
**Nebrija**

---



**GRADO EN  
RELACIONES  
INTERNACIONALES  
CURSO 2011/2012**

**Asignatura:**

**Political Science: Power and Decision  
Making**

**Código: RRI101**



**Course: *Political Science: Power and Decision Making***

**Education: *Obligatory***

**ECTS Credits: 6**

**Level: First**

**Semester: First**

**Professor: *Michael Leube, Ph.D.***

**Academic Course: 2011-2012**

## **1. PREREQUISITES**

None

## **2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CONTENT**

This course is a study of the fundamental concepts for the analysis of political processes and structures. It is an introduction to some of the most important themes of political science such as power, the state and the relationship between politics, power and legitimacy.

We will compare different political systems and examine various theories concerning the state. How is power distributed and decisions made in different systems? Political organizations have changed and we will study their biological and historical evolution.

Above all, this course serves as an introductory overview that awakens in the student a sensitivity to and allows a better understanding of the political reality surrounding him. We will consider, for instance, some processes that are transforming today's democracies, such as globalization, the declining power of nation states as well as the emergence of new actors and forms of political participation.

## **3. LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

### **Skills for the Student to acquire:**

1. Knowledge and understanding of the forms of political organization and its evolution with special attention given to the state
2. Knowledge and understanding of the political system, its elements and factors that shape it
3. Knowledge and understanding of political actors (political parties, leaders, pressure groups, social movements and organizations) and their behavior
4. Knowledge and understanding of subject-specific vocabulary and concepts
5. Recognize and use theories, paradigms, concepts and principles of the discipline.

### **General Skills**

6. Public argumentation in an orderly and understandable fashion.
7. Correct spelling in papers, discussions and arguments
8. Efficient implementation of information and communication technology.
9. Ability to identify, transcribe, synthesize, analyze and interpret complex information in a systematic fashion, using different media (written, oral, visual and digital).
10. Apply organizational and teamwork skills

### **Specific Skills**

11. Identify and become familiar with basic concepts of political science
12. Ability to judge and analyze various elements of the political system in an objective and reasoned manner
13. Ability to identify, classify and compare political systems
14. Ability to analyze and explain the behavior of political actors in an objective and reasoned manner
15. Express opinions in oral and in written form using correct terminology, which implies knowledge of the subject.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the student shall:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding of the political system, its elements and subsystems
- Be able to apply theoretical knowledge to the analysis of political reality, developing and sustaining appropriate arguments, both individually and through teamwork.
- Acquire the ability to analyze political reality using conceptual tools of political science

## **4. CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY**

- Theory: 2 ECTS; will be based on lecture and class participation covering the basic concepts of the course as well as homework and presentations of individual research and case studies
- Tutorial: 0,5 ECTS; individual or group tutoring for the resolution of doubts concerning the course material and supervision of work required
- Practice: 1 ECTS
  - Lecture and analysis of jurisprudence; comprises the reading and analysis of the course material
  - Case Studies; case Studies for the application of methodology
  - Virtual learning projects: study of material using computer and information technologies

-Personal work of students and team work: 2 ECTS; includes the research, individual study and elaboration of assigned practical work as well as presentations and/or case studies

-Participation in conferences and debates: 0.3 ECTS; participation in conferences relevant to the course and debates related to the issues explained

Type of Activity	ECTS
Theory	2
Tutorial	0,5
Practice	1
Personal and Team Work	2
Participation in Conferences and Debates	0.3
Exam	0.2

Distance Learning Activities	ECTS
Distance Learning Classes	1
Office Hours	0,5
Research, Selection and Analysis of Information	1
Virtual Learning	1
Personal Work	2
Exams	0,5

**Distance Learning Classes (1ECTS):** Students will take on-line classes, which will resemble traditional classes but differ in their use of on-line teaching tools: Videoconferences, chat rooms and blogs. Students will use different formats for their work such as power point and video and audio presentations.

**Office Hours (0,5 ECTS):** Office Hours will also be held on-line and tailored to the ability and competence of each student. Inside *Virtual Campus*, there will be a place for a student to express doubts and questions to the professor. Different mediums such as email, telephone and video conferences will be used. A personal visit with the professor can also be arranged when possible.

**Research, selection and analysis of information (1ECTS):** The student must be able to find, classify and analyze different documents and sources of information. Small research projects will train the student in these skills.

**Personal Work (2 ECTS):** The student is responsible to read and learn the required material exactly like in traditional university settings.

**Virtual Learning (1 ECTS):** Virtual Campus will be used for the preparation and presentation of academic work. Online forums, email and videoconferences will be used.

**Exams (0,5 ECTS):** Exams are an important part of learning and are the place where the student must demonstrate analytical and communicative skills regarding learning material.

## 5. Course Evaluation



### **5.1.Regular Evaluation:**

- 5.1.1.- Attitude and Participation: 10%
- 5.1.2.- Guided academic activities: 20%
- 5.1.3.- Midterm Examination: 20%
- 5.1.4.- Final Examination: 50%

### **5.1.2 Secondary Evaluation:**

- 5.1.1.-Final Examination: 80% of final grade
- 5.1.2.-Guided academic work: The class work assigned in the regular evaluation must be completed following the guidelines of the teachers and will be worth 20% of the final grade.

### **5.2. Evaluation of distance learning module:**

#### 5.2.2.Regular Evaluation:

- 5.2.2.1. Participation in online forums, chat rooms, blogs, videoconferences and other forms of distance learning: 10%.
- 5.2.2.2. Evaluation of guided academic work: 40%
- 5.2.2.3. Final Examination at Nebrija campus: 50%

#### 5.2.3.Secondary Evaluation:

A final examination will be worth 80% of final grade. The class work assigned in the regular evaluation must be completed following the guidelines of the teachers and will be worth 20% of the final grade. The grade for secondary evaluation must be 5 or above.

### **5.2.Restrictions:**

In order to successfully pass this course, the student needs to complete a minimum of 80% of the required hours and receive 50% of the total points available in the final exam. Any grade below that is considered a fail.

All class work will be assigned plenty of time in advance. Individual work must be turned in by the student on the due date; group projects must be turned in on the due date by the members of the group and then presented by the group in the class room. Late projects by the individual or the group will not be considered

The student will lose the 10% attitude/ participation grade in secondary evaluation.

## **6. BIBLIOGRAFY**

- **General Bibliografy**

- ABELLÁN, J., *Poder y Política en Max Weber*, Madrid, Alianza, 2004.
- ALCÁNTARA, M. *Sistemas Políticos de la Unión Europea*, Valencia, Tirant lo Blanc, 2000
- ALCÁNTARA M., Y MARTÍNEZ, A *Política y gobierno en España*. Valencia, Tirant lo Blanc, 1997
- ALMOND G., *Comparative Politics Today*. New York, Pearson, 2010
- BOBBIO, B., MATUCCI, N. y PASQUINO, G., *Diccionario de Política* Ciudad de México, Siglo XXI, 2002
- CAMINAL BADIA, M. (Ed.) *Manual de Ciencia Política*, Madrid, Tecnos, 2006
- COTARELO, R. *Los Partidos Políticos*, Madrid, Sistema, 1985.
- COTARELO, R. y J. L. PANIAGUA, *Introducción a la Ciencia Política*, Madrid, UNED, 1987.
- DEL ÁGUILA, R. *Manual de Ciencia Política*, Madrid, Trotta, 2003
- DELGADO SOTILLOS, I; CHÁVARRI SIDERA, P. y OÑATE RUBALCABA, P. (Coords.) *Sistemas de Organización Política Contemporánea*, UNED, Madrid, 2002
- DUVERGER, M., *Introducción a la política*, Barcelona, 1983
- DUVERGER, M. *Los partidos políticos*, Madrid, Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2002
- GOLDSTEIN, J., *International Relations*, New York, Pearson, 2006
- LIPHART, A. *Modelos de democracia*, Barcelona, Ariel, 2000
- MARSH, D. and G. STOKER (ed.) *Theory and Methods in Political Science*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2002.
- MARTÍNEZ, A. (Ed), *Representación y calidad de la democracia en España*, Madrid, Tecnos, 2006
- PASQUINO, G. *Manual De Ciencia Política*. Madrid, Alianza, 1986
- PASTOR, M (Coord.) *Fundamentos de Ciencia Política*, Madrid, Mc Graw Hill, 1995
- SARTORI, G, *Partidos y Sistemas de Partidos*, Madrid, Alianza, 2003
- SARTORI, G., *Elementos de teoría política*, Madrid, 2005
- SODARO, M. J. *Política y Ciencia Política*, Madrid, Mc Graw Hill, 2006
- VALLES, J. M. *Ciencia Política: una introducción*, Barcelona, Ariel, 2003

- **Journals**

Amongst others, the following journals may prove to be very useful:

American Political Science Review  
Political Science Quarterly  
Comparative Political Studies  
Party Politics  
Perspectives on Political Science  
Political Studies  
The British Journal of Politics and IR



- **Web Pages**

It is also recommended to consult the following web pages:

AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION [www.apsanet.org](http://www.apsanet.org)

AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE of POLICY and SCIENCE <http://www.aips.net.au/>

EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM OF POLITICAL RESEARCH <http://www.ecprnet.eu/>

GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

<http://www.graduateinstitute.ch>

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION <http://www.ipsa.org/site/>

LSE [www.lse.ac.uk](http://www.lse.ac.uk)

MIT (Ciencia Política) <http://web.mit.edu/polisci/>

POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION UK <http://www.psa.ac.uk/>

POLITICAL RESEARCH ON-LINE (PROL)

<http://archive.allacademic.com/one/prol/prol01/>

SCIENCE PO PARIS [www.sciences-po.fr](http://www.sciences-po.fr)

## 7. SHORT CURRICULUM OF PROFESSOR

Dr. Michael Leube received his B.A. in Anthropology/ Religious Studies from the University of California at Berkeley (1994), a M.A. in Anthropology/ Human Biology at the University of Vienna (1999) and a Ph.D. in Anthropology at the Institute for Anthropological Research in Zagreb (2003). His thesis concerned anthropological theory and method as practiced in Berkeley, London and Vienna. As a researcher, he participated with various humanitarian aid organizations in Guatemala (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and the Universidad San Carlos de Guatemala), in Kenya (African Medical Research Facility, AMREF) and in India (Creative Handicrafts). Since January 2001, he has worked as professor of anthropology, sociology, demography, international relations and political science as well as developmental studies. He has taught at the University of Santa Clara, Saint Louis University, Madrid, L.S.E, Madrid and at Syracuse University, Madrid. At the Swiss Management Center (SMC) in Vienna he works as a professor of International Relations and Sociology in the Doctorate Program of Diplomacy and Economic Theory.

## 8. PROFESSOR CONTACT

Office hours serve to help the student with any problems he/ she might have with the material of the course or any of the assignments. The place for locating the professor: Dpto. Derecho y Relaciones Internacionales, Despacho B-101. Students will be seen by appointment only and the professor can be reached under the following address: michael\_leube@yahoo.com

## 9. COURSE CONTENT

DEGREE: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COURSE: POLITICAL SCIENCE: POWER AND DECISION MAKING

---



**LEVEL: FIRST**  
**SEMESTER: FIRST**  
**ECTS CREDITS: 6**

Week	Session	Theory and Practice in Class	Individual Student Work	Class Hours	Hours/Week Homework
1	1	Introduction to Course	Reading Assignment	1.5	
1	2	Political Science: Study Objectives and Development	Reading Assignment	1.5	
2	3	Power: Evolutionary Considerations	Reading Assignment	1.5	
2	4	Power: Historical Considerations		1.5	
2	5	Limits and distribution of power	Reading Assignment/ Case Study	1.5	
3	6	Political Organization: Pre-state	Reading Assignment/ Case Study	1.5	
3	7	Political Organization: Definitions of state and its elements	Reading Assignment	1.5	
4	8	The Modern State: Principles, Theories 1		1.5	
4	9	The Modern State: Principles, Theories 2		1.5	
4	10	The Modern State: Principles, Theories 3		1.5	
5	11	The Modern State: Principles, Theories 3	Reading Assignment	1.5	
5	12	Territorial Structure of the State: central, federal and confederate	Reading Assignment	1.5	
6	13	Authoritarianism, Democracy and Social Democracy Crisis of the State	Reading Assignment/Debate	1.5	
6	14	Ejecutive, legislative and judicial branches of the State	Reading Assignment/Debate	1.5	
6	15	Crisis of the State and Globalization	Reading Assignment/Debate	1.5	
7	16	Review for Midterm		1.5	
7	17	<b>MIDTERM EXAMINATION</b>	Reading Assignment	1.5	
8	18	Non-democratic Systems I	Reading Assignment	1.5	
8	19	Non-democratic Systems II		1.5	
8	20	Democracies I	Practice Essay Writing	1.5	
9	21	Democracies II		1.5	
9	22	Preparation for writing the Essay	Presentation of Essay Topic	1.5	
10	23	<b>ESSAY DUE</b> Political Parties and Interest groups I	Presentation of Essay Topic	1.5	
10	24	Political parties and Interest groups II	Reading Assignment/ Case Study	1.5	
10	25	Electoral Processes		1.5	
11	26	Electoral Campaigns	Reading Assignment/ Case Study	1.5	
11	27	Political Culture	Reading Assignment/Study	1.5	
12	28	Review of Material		1.5	
12	29	Review of Material		1.5	
13 a 14		<b>FINAL EXAM (REGULAR)</b>		3 h	
15 a 16		<b>FINAL EXAM (SECONDARY)</b>		3 h	
1 a 16		<b>OFFICE HOURS</b>		15h	
TOTAL				<b>64.5 +</b>	<b>85.5 = 150 hours</b>