



Political Science:
Power and Decision-
Making Structures
**Degree in International
Relations**



UNIVERSIDAD
NEBRIJA

TEACHING GUIDE

Subject: Political Science: Power and Decision-making Structures

Degree: Degree in International Relations

Academic Year: 2020-2021

Character: Obligatory

Language: Spanish/English

Mode: On-site

Credits: 6

Course: 1st

Semester: 1st

Teachers/Teaching Team: D. Ricardo Cortés Lastra; Dr. D. Óscar Martínez Tapia

1. SKILLS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

1.1. Competences

GC 1 Developing skills for autonomous learning in the field of International Relations.

CG 2 To search, organise, synthesise, analyse and interpret information of interest for the formation of the internationalist from diverse sources, in a systematic way, using different supports (written, oral, audiovisual and digital).

CG 3 To apply the theoretical knowledge obtained in the different subjects to the analysis and solution of practical situations of international character.

CG 4 To expose arguments in public in an orderly and understandable way, from different perspectives and being able to adapt them to the composition of the audience.

CG 5 To communicate correctly in an oral and written way in a native language

GC 6 Communicate orally and in writing in foreign languages, primarily in English (students should reach level B2 on the CEFR)

GC 8 Efficiently Applying Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

GC 9 Commit in ethical terms to the values, principles and rights recognized by international society.

CG 13 Apply organizational and teamwork skills, especially in multinational teams

CG 15 Understand and know the elements that influence decision-making in the national and international contexts.

SG 1 To become familiar with the fundamental elements that make up International Relations, understanding and incorporating their multidisciplinary character.

SG 2 To know, understand and be able to apply the theories by adequately handling the key concepts and terminology of the different theoretical currents.

SG 3 To know and correctly use the research and analysis methods and techniques of International Relations.

SG 4 To identify, understand and analyse the elements, processes and dynamics that can be observed in the structure of international society and their management by the different types of actors.

SG 8 To understand and analyse the international economic structure, taking into account both the flows and the trends that characterise it.

CE 9 To know and understand, using analytical criteria, the main elements that define the foreign policy of the States, especially of Spain.

CE 10 To have the capacity to assess and analyse the fragmentation of the international system in different geopolitical areas, identifying the elements that make them up, as well as the dynamics of cooperation and conflict present in them.

EC 12 To make adequate use of the conceptual framework for the study of international conflicts, and to correctly apply the typologies of crises and international conflicts.

CE 15 Know and value human rights and the existing instruments for their protection, as well as their contribution to coexistence both in the national and international sphere

1.2. Learning outcomes

Through the study of this subject the student:

- Acquire knowledge and understanding of the political system and the elements and subsystems that make it up.
- Must be able to apply this theoretical knowledge to the analysis of reality, elaborating and defending adequate arguments, both individually and through teamwork.
- He/she will develop skills in analysing the current reality and the ability to gather and interpret the relevant information, as well as to transmit the results of such analysis in a correct way and using the appropriate terminology.
- The student must acquire the capacity to analyze the political reality through the use of conceptual tools of political science.

2. Contents

2.1. Prerequisites

None

2.2. Descripción de los contenidos

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.

2.3. Detailed content

- 1. Introduction to course.**
 - 1.1. Political Science: What is Political Science?
 - 1.2. How scientific is Political Science?
 - 1.3. Methodological issues.

- 2. Key political concepts.**
 - 2.1. Legitimacy, sovereignty, authority.
 - 2.2. Ideology.
 - 2.3. Nationalism.

- 3. The modern state.**
 - 3.1. Principles, theories.
 - 3.2. Division of power. Executive, legislative and judicial branches.
 - 3.3. Poliarchy.
 - 3.4. Non-democratic systems I: Fascism.
 - 3.5. Non-democratic systems II: Marxism/Communism.
 - 3.6. Dictatorship vs. Democracy. The breakdown of democratic regimes.

- 4. Democracies.**
 - 4.1. Characteristics and assumptions.
 - 4.2. Models of democracy: Westminster vs. Consensus.
 - 4.3. Political engineering.
 - 4.4. Political parties and interest groups.
 - 4.5. Legitimacy and representation: Electoral systems.
 - 4.6. Party systems.

2.4. Guided Activities

Some of the following activities, practices, reports or projects, or others with similar objectives or nature, may be developed during the course:

Directed Activity 1 (AD1): In a group. Students will have to analyze the political system of a state (which they will be able to choose freely, but must have the teacher's approval). They will have to use in the analysis all the concepts and elements studied throughout the course.

Directed Activity (AD2): Individual. Elaboration of a diagram/scheme of the evolution of the state and its elements.

Directed Activity (AD3): Individual. Exercise of calculation of the distribution of seats in different electoral systems.

Type of activity	6 ECTS - 150 Hours - 50 % presence
Theoretical classes	42 hours - 100% presence
Tutorials	15 hours - 80% presence
Internship	27.5 hours - 33% presence
Personal and group work	50 hours - 0% presence
Participation in forums and debates	9 hours - 50% presence
Examination	7.5 hours - 100% presence

3. EVALUATION SYSTEM

3.1. Marking system

The final grading system will be expressed numerically as follows: 0 - 4,9 Suspenso (SS)

5.0 - 6.9 Approved (PA)

7.0 - 8.9 Remarkable (NT)

9.0 - 10 Outstanding (SB)

The mention of "honor roll" may be awarded to students who have obtained a grade of 9.0 or higher.

3.2. Evaluation criteria

Ordinary evaluation

Mode: On-site

Evaluation systems	Porcentaje
Class attendance and participation	10%
Presentation of work and projects (individual practices and team work)	20%
Partial test (written/work submission)	20%
Final exam or final paper in person	50%

Secondary evaluation

Mode: On-site

Evaluation systems	Porcentaje
Class attendance and participation	0%
Presentation of work and projects (individual practices and team work)	20%
Partial test (written/work submission)	0%
Final exam or final paper in person	80%

3.3. Restrictions

Minimum qualification

To be able to average with the above weights, it is necessary to obtain at least a grade of 5 in the final test.

Attendance

A student who unjustifiably fails to attend more than 25% of the face-to-face classes may be deprived of the right to take the examination at the ordinary convocation.

Writing rules

Special attention will be paid to the written work, practices and projects, as well as to the presentation and content of the exams, taking care of the grammatical and orthographic aspects. Non-compliance with the minimum acceptable standards may result in points being deducted from the paper.

3.4. Plagiarism warning

Under no circumstances will the Universidad Antonio de Nebrija tolerate plagiarism or copying. It will be considered plagiarism the reproduction of paragraphs from audit texts other than the student's (Internet, books, articles, peer papers...), when the original source from which they come is not cited. The use of quotations cannot be indiscriminate. Plagiarism is a crime.

If this type of practice is detected, it will be considered a serious offence and the sanction provided for in the Student Regulations may be applied.

4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

* Course Book:

Lijphart, Arend (2012), *Patterns of Democracy. Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, Yale Univ. Press, New Haven (2nd Edition) (available on Amazon.es)

Other readings will be available to students in the class website

* General Bibliography

* Marsh, D. And Stoker, G. (1995), *Theory and Methods in Political Science*, MacMillan: London.

* Pennings, P, Keman, H. and Kleinnijenhuis, J. (1999), *Doing Research in Political Science* Sage: London.

* Dahl, R. (1971), *Polyarchy. Participation and Opposition*, Yale Univ. Press. New Haven.

* Sartori, Giovanni. 1991. Comparing and Miscomparing. *Journal of Theoretical Research*, Vol 3, Issue 3.

* Lijphart, Arend. 1971. Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method', *American Political Science Review* 65: 682-693.

* Dahlia K. Remler and Gregg G. Van Ryzin. 2014. *Research Methods in Practice*.

Strategies for Description and Causation. Sage Publications,

- *
- Lijphart, A. (1997), Unequal Participation: Democracy's Unresolved Dilemma, *American Journal of Political Science Review*, Vol. 91, N.1
- *
- Gerardo L. Munck 2016. What is democracy? A reconceptualization of the quality of democracy, *Democratization*, 23:1, 1-26
- *
- Almond, G. & Verba, S. (1963) *The Civic Culture. Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*, Princeton, NJ.: Princeton Univ. Press, Ch. 1.
- *
- Almond, G. & Verba, S. (eds.)(1989), *The Civic Culture Revisited*, London: Sage, Ch. 1
- *
- Dalton, R. (2002), *Citizen Politics. Pulic Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*, NYC: Chatham House Publishers, Intro & Ch.7
- *
- Lipset & Rokkan, Cleavage Structures, Party Systems and Voter Alignments in Peter Mair (ed.)1990. *The West European Party System*, Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press.
- *
- Mair, P. (2005), Introduction, in Giovanni Sartori, *Parties and Party Systems. A Framework for Analysis*, Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press ECPR Series
- *
- Herbert Kitschelt. 2000. Linkages between Citizens and Politicians in Democratic Polities. *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 6-7, 845-879
- *
- Linz, J. The Perils of Presidentialism, *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 1, Number 1, Winter 1990, pp. 51-69
- *
- Linz, J. (1978), *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes. Crisis, Breakdown and Reequilibration*, Baltimore: John Hopkins
- *
- Hanspeter Kriesi. 2013. Party Systems, Electoral Systems and Protest Politics (Paper presented at IPSA).
- *
- Mair, P. (1990)(Ed.), *The West European Party System* (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press)
- *
- Mair, P. (1997), *Party System Change. Approaches and Interpretations*, Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press
- *
- Rae, D. (1967), *The Political Consequences of Electoral Laws*, Yale Univ. Press: New Haven
- *
- **Bibliography in Spanish (note that most non-Spanish authors can be found also in English)**
 - 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
 - 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
LIPHART, A. *Modelos de democracia*, Barcelona, Ariel, 2000
MARTÍNEZ, A. (Ed), *Representación y calidad de la democracia en España*, Madrid, Tecnos, 2006
MARTÍNEZ-TAPIA, O. (2016), *Los Problemas no Resueltos de la Democracia. Centro y Periferia en España*, Arrebato Libros: Madrid.
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

- **Important Academic Websites**

It is also recommended to consult the following websites:

AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION 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
MIT Political Science <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