Syllabus Information
Subject: 76407 - Political Science
Credits: 6.0
Course language:
- Lecture: Group 1: English
- Learning Unit 1: Group 101: English
  Group 102: English
- Learning Unit 2: Group 101: English
  Group 102: English

Professors:
- Degrees where it is taught: 392 - Degree in International Relations

Course typology: Core Curriculum
Academic year: 1
Semester: Second semester

Requirements and previous knowledge
None.

Subjects to be taken simultaneously
None.

Description
Core group. Professor: Umut Ozkirimli
Oxford English Dictionary defines "politics" as "the science and study of government and the state and as activities or policies associated with government, esp. those concerning the organization and administration of a state, or part of a state, and with the regulation of relationships between states?. There is, however, another, more derogatory definition: "actions concerned with the acquisition or exercise of power, status, or authority?. What is politics then? Is it a good thing or a bad thing? What is the relationship of politics with power and authority? Why should we study politics? And last but certainly not the least, how should we study politics? The aim of this course is to provide some answers to these questions and introduce students to the basic concepts, theories, methodologies and debates on political science. The weekly sessions will consist of lectures and an interactive discussion of "gender themed? issues and feminist perspectives.

Learning Unit 1: Professor: Lluís Font
This Learning Unit will provide a brief political history of Spain and Catalonia in the twentieth century. We will cover the Spanish and Catalan constitutions and discuss recent developments in the Spain-Catalonia relationship.

Learning Unit 2: Political Ideologies in 2021. Professor: Jaume Suau
The purpose of this Learning Unit is to study the current debates about political models and how these are related to ideological trends originated in the 20th century. More specifically, the learning unit explores how liberal democracy defeated its ideological enemies by the end of the 20th century and how this former hegemony is under threat in 2021. The rise of new forms of authoritarianism, specially those originated with the rise of China as a global power, present new challenges that cannot be understood by taking just into account the ideological battles of the 20th century. As China rises liberal democracy sees how this new actor presents itself with a new political model that cannot be understood with the dichotomy capitalism Vs communism. In this Learning Unit students will learn which are the strengths, weaknesses and ideological fundaments of the Chinese political model, comparing them with the key elements of liberal democracy. By analysing Western and Chinese political thinkers students will be expected to build a solid opinion on some of the debates that will shape political thought and international relations during next decades.
Course objectives, skills and learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- develop a familiarity with key concepts in and debates on political science
- compare and contrast various interpretations of politics
- critically engage with basic concepts in political science
- demonstrate an ability to use these concepts to understand and interpret current events

Contents

CONTENTS

Core group:

1. Introduction. Course overview, readings, evaluation

2. What is politics?

3. Political ideas and ideologies

4. Politics and the state

5. Democracy and legitimacy

6. Nations and nationalism

7. Political economy and globalization

8. Identity politics and gender

9. Political culture and the media

10. Elections and voting

11. Parties and party systems

12. Interest groups and social movements
13. **World order and global governance**


14. **Review and discussion**

**Learning Unit 1: The Spanish and Catalan Political System**

The six sessions of the learning unit will be structured around the following four main topics.

- Brief political history of Spain and Catalonia during 20th century
- The Constitutional Spanish system.
- The Catalan Constitutional System.
- The current situation in Spain and Catalonia.

**Learning Unit 2: Political Ideologies**

Session 1.- Introduction & classic typology of political ideologies. Liberalism as the hegemonic political ideology of the 20th century. The need of new concepts to understand ideologies in 21st century.

Session 2.- Political thought in ancient China.

Session 3.- Communism, one-party regime and the Chinese political model nowadays.

Session 4.- The new battle for hegemony: from ideology to efficiency and good governance

Session 5.- Citizens? control, surveillance and the limits of authoritarianism.

Session 6.- Liberal democracy and the China model, expansion abroad and sustainability of foreign autocracies implementing the Chinese political system. Review of topics & preparation final essay.

**Evaluation**

**Core group:**

The assessment is based on students? active participation in interactive lectures, one mid-term exam (40%) and one final exam (60%).

- **Mid-term exam (40%):** A one-and-a-half-hour long written exam on the topics covered so far.

- **Final written exam (60%):** A two-hours long written exam on the topics covered throughout the course.

**Learning Unit 1:**

Two Short essays written in class (50% each).

**Learning Unit 2:**

One-Two group exercises conducted in class (30%): students in groups of 4-5 will read articles that present different approaches to a similar topic, discuss the issues and agree on the answers to a series of questions presented by the professor.

Final essay (70%).

**Bibliography**

**Core group:**

Additional Readings

(For class discussions)


**Learning Unit 1:**

**Learning Unit 2:**
- Mandatory reading: Article "The China model, a dialogue between Francis Fukuyama and Zhang Weiwei?.

Optional readings:
- The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the limits of democracy, by Daniel A. Bell
- Everything under the heavens, by Howard W. French
- What is China? By Ge Zhaoguang
- The China Wave: Rise of a Civilizational State, by Zhang Weiwei

**COVID-19 Adaptations**

The Catalan University System has determined the academic year 2021-2022 to be an exceptional period due to the COVID-19 crisis. Therefore, Blanquerna School of Communication and International Relations has produced a teaching model for the academic year 2021-2022 in order to ensure the teaching and academic quality in all the degrees in our School and also in all the possible scenarios that may occur. The model follows the instructions and guidelines given by the health authorities with regard to social distancing, and basic hygiene measures and procedures. It allows for the recommendations of the Ministry of Universities and the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU), and it is in line with the general criteria for the adaptation of the academic year 2021-2022 at Ramon Llull University due to the exceptional context of COVID-19.