PO 325 POLITICS IN SPAIN: PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS
IES Abroad Barcelona

DESCRIPTION:
Spain in the last hundred years has been a scenario for virtually every single form of government possible: it transformed itself from Empire into State, provided new roles to old institutions such as the monarchy, struggled between democracy and dictatorship, and even between different ideas of what democracy is, experienced civil war, juggled with threats of regional secession, experimented with different forms of territorial organization, and to crown it all, it entered the supranational arena by becoming a member of the European Union. This course provides an introduction to Spanish politics from a historical and comparative perspective. It analyzes the institutional organization of Spain, focusing on the interplay between historical processes and institutional settings. It is designed to introduce students into the comparative analysis of political systems by using Spain as a case study, in addition to providing them with the key elements of the Spanish political “rules of the game” in order to be able to assess the causes and consequences of political institutions and processes.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: One prior course in one or more of the following disciplines: Political Science, Social Science, History.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
- **Course-related trips**: These are classes on site. It involves visits to museums, visits to relevant institutions, and guided tours to specific historically relevant sites. Course-related trips provide students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge on certain issues beyond the scope of class materials and on the historical significance of some of the most prominent sites in the city they live in, as well as a visual image of the processes covered in class.
- **Lectures**: Lectures provide the theoretical and historical background to the course’s contents. It explores the debates, theories and events which surround the readings and other class materials. It clarifies and systematizes concepts that are necessary to understand events and institutions in a larger framework.
- **Class discussion**: Class discussions facilitate the students’ ability to analyze course materials, apply concepts, compare events, and express their analytical views on the theories and processes discussed in the course.
- **Student presentation**: Each student will make a presentation based on the readings of a particular class. This further allows the student to actively engage with the materials, as well as expand and go beyond the scope of the class on at least one of the issues covered in the course.
- **Reader**: The reader is the fundamental source of information for students. It includes a selection of key academic readings, which will introduce the students into the processes, concepts, and events discussed in class. The chosen with the aim of providing a general understanding of the subject matter.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
Final grades will be based on:
- Class participation (10%)
- Oral presentation (30%)
- Mid-term exam (30%)
- Final exam (30%)

Participation: Students are expected to prepare the assigned readings before class, and take an active role in discussing the issues discussed in each session. Attendance is therefore mandatory.
Student Presentation: Each student will make one presentation based on the readings discussed in the course. This further allows the student to actively engage with the materials, as well as expand and go beyond the scope of the class on at least one of the issues covered in the course.

Exams: There will be an in-class mid-term and final exam.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
• identify the relevant actors that have shaped political processes at different stages, as well as the interplay between their interests, opportunities and constraints they face;
• evaluate the role of different institutional settings in shaping the choices that politicians make;
• compare the effectiveness and stability of different political systems and alternative forms of organizing a democracy;
• analyze the historical evolution of political ideals and their correspondence with particular types of institutions;
• assess the impact of political processes on political institutions, and how in turn institutions shape political processes;
• attain critical analysis skills on issues of institutional design.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related trips. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than three classes in any course 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

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<th>Session</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Overview of Spanish history, from the formation of the Spanish Empire to the 20th century.</td>
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<td>Analyzes the political organization of, and the internal contradictions within, the late Franco dictatorship. The class will also explore the events and political reforms which took place during the early stages of the transition to democracy.</td>
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<td>This class explores the nature and organization of the Spanish Constitution of 1978. In particular, it will focus on the processes and problems incurred in</td>
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<td>Session 5</td>
<td>The Transition to Democracy as National Reconciliation.</td>
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<td>Analysis of the conditions and choices that facilitated the success of the Spanish transition to democracy. In particular, the class focuses on the ‘pacto del olvido’, the implicit agreement between the outgoing Francoist authorities and opposition elites to avoid war crimes and investigations of the past in return for a peaceful transition to democracy.</td>
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<td>Session 6</td>
<td>Governance at the Centre.</td>
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<td>This class explores the contrast between parliamentarism and presidentialism as methods of governance, and investigates in depth the ‘quasi-presidential' system used in Spain.</td>
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<td>Session 7</td>
<td>Federalism in Spain.</td>
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<td>Analysis of the use of federalism to assuage divided societies, focusing in particular on the implementation and development of a quasi-federal system in Spain known as the <em>estado de las autonomías</em>.</td>
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<td>Session 8</td>
<td>Course related trip to the Air Shelter (Refugi 307)</td>
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<td>Session 9</td>
<td>The Judiciary and the ‘State of Law’.</td>
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<td>This class will discuss the institutional development of the judiciary in Spain. It will pay particular attention to the role of the judiciary as a counter-balance to parliamentary and legislative powers, as well as its recent role in international legal controversies (e.g. the Pinochet case).</td>
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<td>Session 10</td>
<td>Modern Political Parties in Spain.</td>
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<td>Analysis of the development, organization and ideologies of the two main statewide parties, with</td>
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<td>Session 11</td>
<td>Spanish Economy in Historical and Contemporary Perspective.</td>
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<td>Analysis of the development of the Spanish political economy, from autarky to European integration and monetary union.</td>
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<th>Session 12</th>
<th>Midterm Exam</th>
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<th>Session 13</th>
<th>Electoral Competition in Spain (I).</th>
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<td>This class will focus on the institutional incentives embedded in the Spanish electoral system, which have favored some parties over others, and have led to the proliferation of regionally based parties in different parts of the country. It further discusses the consequences of this institutional setting for the Spanish political system overall.</td>
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<th>Session 14</th>
<th>Electoral Competition in Spain (II).</th>
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<td>Analysis of the general elections of 2004 and 2008. The class will survey the last two general elections, paying particular attention to the 2004 elections, which were held in the aftermath of the worst terrorist attack in Europe in recent times and clouded in extreme controversy. It will explore the degree to which the terrorist attacks led to a change in voter intentions and participation, and the issue of manipulation both by the government and the opposition.</td>
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<th>The Policy Process.</th>
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<td>Particular attention will be paid to the social pacts which characterized the early transition period, and compare those processes with the functioning of the policy process in modern times. It will explore the</td>
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<td>Session 16</td>
<td>Spain and the Wider World.</td>
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<td>This class will explore traditional and contemporary traditions in Spanish foreign policy. The class will focus on the transition of Spain’s foreign policy posture from dictatorship to democracy, its adaptation to entry into the European Community, as well as paying particular attention to modern foreign policy under Aznar and Zapatero.</td>
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<th>Session 17</th>
<th>Spain and Europe.</th>
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<td>Analysis of the development of relations between Spain and Europe, paying particular attention to the degree to which Spanish government institutions have become ‘Europeanized’ by membership in the European Union, and to what degree Spain has influenced EU policy.</td>
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<th>Session 18</th>
<th>Civil Society and Democratic Consolidation in Spain.</th>
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<td>The class will focus on the role of civil society in the consolidation of democracy in Spain. In addition, attention will be paid to contemporary social cleavages and political strategies towards exploiting those cleavages.</td>
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<th>Session 19</th>
<th>Political Corruption in Spain.</th>
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<td>Explores structural factors, incentives and opportunity structures for political corruption in Spain’s contemporary democracy.</td>
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<th>Session 20</th>
<th>Terrorism in Spain.</th>
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<td>This class uses the Basque Country as a case study to explore the effects of terrorism on democracy. It pays particular attention to the terrorist group ETA, its development and current organization and importance. It will also deal with state responses to terrorism, electoral manipulation and intimidation, freedom of speech and the press.</td>
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### Session 21
**Terrorism in Spain II.**

The class will continue exploring the social and political effects of ETA terrorism in the Spanish society. Documentary viewing and debate.


### Session 22
**Course Related Trip TBA**

### Session 23
**The Media and Politics in Spain.**

This class will analyze the development of the Spanish media from dictatorship to democracy. The class will pay close to the contemporary relationship between politics and the media, in particular how the media affects elite political positions as well as electoral behavior.


### Session 24
**Review Session and Comments Course-related trip**

**Final Exam**

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**REQUIRED READINGS**


RECOMMENDED READING