

Course Title (English)	Current Sociopolitical Topics in Spain
Academic Institution	University of Granada (UGR)
City	Granada
Country	Spain
Course Title (Spanish)	Temas de actualidad sociopolítica en España
Course Number	CEH 355
Sessions (Terms)	Semester
Instructional Language	Spanish
Contact Hours	45
Credits (semester credits)	3
Credits (quarter units)	4.5
Prerequisites	Advanced Spanish II
Track	CEH (Hispanic Studies)

Course Description

This course aims to provide a general understanding of the basic fundamentals of politics and government in Spain. The course will analyze both institutional aspects and the dynamics of the political process. Specifically, we study the form of government in Spain, the democratic institutions, the model of territory organization, the party system, the electoral evolution in Spain and the political culture of Spaniards.

Course Content

Topic 1: Form of government in Spain: The parliamentary monarchy.

- Features and functions of the monarchy in Spain.
- The role of the crown in the Spanish political process.

Topic 2: The government.

- Composition and structure of government.
- The formation and removal of the government.
- The government functions.

Topic 3: The general courts.

- Nature and structure of parliament.
- Parliamentary functions.

Topic 4: Justice, the constitutional court and the Ombudsman.

- The constitutional regulation of the judiciary.
- The general council of the judiciary.
- The constitutional court. The Ombudsman.

Topic 5: The form of state in Spain: the regional state.

- Autonomous construction process, institutions and powers of the CCAA.
- The relations between the central government and the regions.

Topic 6: The electoral system.

- Spanish electoral system elements.
- Spanish electoral system effects.
- Proposals to reform the Spanish electoral system.

Topic 7: Political parties in Spain and elections.

- Major parties in Spain.
- Evolution of the vote in Spain by political parties.

Topic 8: The political culture of the Spanish.

- Features of the political culture in Spain.

Activities

In a volunteer manner, those students who would like to complete a small project or essay based on some of the lectures that are part of the program. The completion of these assignments can lead to personalized attention and help from the professor

Assessment

To pass the course regular class attendance and participation are absolutely necessary. It is also necessary to pass the final exam in December. The basic material for the exam is the student's class notes. The student's knowledge of the subject will also be expanded through the readings which accompany the activities completed in class. The overall grade will come from the exam, assignments, class attendance, and active participation. It is necessary that the student obtain a minimum grade of 5 (C) on the final exam and have attended 80% of the classes, following the rules of the university. However, the final grade will take into account the assignments (they count up to 2 points of the final grade), attendance, class participation and the completion of any work assigned in class.

Bibliography

In addition to the specific and specialized bibliography which is recommended in class for the preparation of the different lectures, it is considered as basic and general reference the following:

- ALCÁNTARA, Manuel y MARTÍNEZ, Antonia (eds.) (2001), Política y Gobierno en España, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia.

The following bibliography may also assist students in preparing for the exam or writing coursework:

- APARICIO, Miguel A. (1991), Introducción al sistema político y constitucional español, Ariel, Barcelona.
- BACHOLID, André y MOURIER, María F. (1991), España una democracia joven, Editorial Masson, Barcelona.
- CARR, Raymond y FUSI, J.P. (1979), España de la dictadura a la democracia, Planeta. Barcelona.
- COLOMER, J.M (Dir.) (1995), La política en Europa: introducción a las instituciones de quince países, Ariel Ciencia Política, Barcelona.
- COTARELO, Ramón (1992), Transición política y consolidación democrática, CIS.
- GARCÍA, MORILLO, Joaquín (1996), La democracia en España, Alianza, Madrid.
- GINER, Salvador (Coord.1990), España. Política y Sociedad, Espasa, Calpe, Madrid.
- GONZÁLEZ ENCINAR, J.J (dir) (1984), Diccionario del Sistema Político Español, Akal, Madrid.
- GUNTHER, R (Ed) (1993), Politics, society and democracy. The case of Spain, Essays in honor of Juan Linz. Westview Press, Oxford.
- GUNTHER, R., MONTERO, J.R. Y BOTELLA, J. (2004), Democracy in modern Spain, New Haven, Yale University Press.
- HEYWOOD, Paul (1995), The Government and politics of Spain, McMillan Press, Londres.
- MARTÍNEZ CUADRADO, M (1996), La democracia en la España de los años noventa, Ariel, Barcelona.
- MAGONE, J.M. (2004), Contemporary Spanish Politics, Nueva York, Routledge.
- MONTABES, Juan (ED) (1998), El sistema electoral a debate. Veinte años de rendimientos del sistema electoral español, CIS Parlamento de Andalucía, Madrid.

- MORODO, Raúl (1984), La transición política, Tecnos, Madrid.
- PRESTON, Paul (1986), El triunfo de la democracia en España, 1969-1982, Plaza & Janés, Barcelona.
- RAMOS GASCÓN, A. (Eds.) (1991), Spain Today: in search of modernity. Society and Culture, Cátedra, Madrid.
- ROMAN, Paloma (Coord.) (2001), Sistema Político español, Mc Graw Hill. Madrid .
- TEZANOS, José Félix, COTARELO, Ramón y DE BLAS, Andrés (Eds.) (1989), La transición democrática española. Editorial Sistema. Madrid.
- TUSELL, Javier, LAMO DE ESPINOSA, Emilio y PARDO, Rafael (Eds.) (1996), Entre dos siglos. Reflexiones sobre la democracia española, Alianza Editorial, Madrid.