

Course title	<b><i>European Political Systems</i></b>
Credits	6 ECTS
University	UCM
Language of the course	English
Learning outcomes	<p><b>LO1</b> understand the different disciplinary approaches to European Studies, including the way in which the different disciplines interact and enrich each other, so that they can grasp the richness of disciplinary perspectives on Europe and reflect on the added-value of multidisciplinary knowledge to understand Europe.</p> <p><b>LO2</b> have multidisciplinary knowledge on the fundamental aspects and values of the European Union and European integration as well as of <b>European states and societies</b>, which allows students to grasp the multi-dimensional issues, interests and ideas that are necessary to understand Europe as a political, economic, cultural and societal process in past and present times.</p> <p><b>LO3</b> be able to reflect on the role of Europe in the world, not the least by being equipped to grasp the complex multi-dimensional historical and contemporary relations between Europe and other countries, societies and regions and/or continents.</p> <p><b>LO7</b> have acquired analytical skills to conduct research under supervision, as well as present and report, clearly and comprehensively, both orally and in written form knowledge concerning questions of European Studies so that overall, students are able to formulate research questions, understand academic literature, collect and analyse data, critically reflect on research findings and weave this into the scientific-academic presentation of their own research results.</p> <p><b>LO8</b> have insight in European Studies as a multi-disciplinary field of scholarship and education, so that students are aware:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. of the importance of the academic knowledge development of various disciplines that feed into the understanding and explanation of Europe;</li> <li>. of utilizing the knowledge provided by these various disciplines, including their diverse conceptual, theoretical and methodological perspectives, in their own academic careers and/or professional work environments.</li> </ul>
Course objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand the structure and functioning of political systems and political institutions.</li> <li>2. Understand the behavior of political actors and the dynamics of political processes, with special emphasis on citizen behavior, values democracy and human rights.</li> </ol>
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to European Politics. From the Second World War Political Systems till the Fall of the Wall (1945-1990)</li> <li>2. Democratic Representation in European Countries: Electoral Systems, Political Parties, Voting Behaviour, Political Participation, Direct and Deliberative Democracy.</li> <li>3. The Process of Government: Government in a multilevel Europe; European Parliamentary diversity; Parties in Government; Multilevel government (decentralization, secession, etc)</li> <li>4. Challenges of European Democracies: Security, Illiberalism, migrants and minorities, Markets</li> </ol>
Work format(s)	<p>Lecture</p> <p>Teaching will consist of a combination of formats i.e.: lectures, hands- on workshops, responsive teaching classes, case reports</p> <p>Students are expected to be present, demonstrate active participation during contact hours and prepare courses in case of responsive teaching sessions</p>
Manner of assessment	<p>50% Final examination</p> <p>50% Practicum</p>

Literature (required/ recommended)	Handouts, reader, medialinks, video materials, practical cases, etc
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