

Course title	Introduction to Politics
Credits	6
University	UCM
Learning outcomes	<p>At the end of the BAES Programme, students should:</p> <p>LO1. 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>LO2. have multidisciplinary knowledge on the fundamental aspects and values of the European Union and European integration as well as of European states and societies, 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>LO3. be able to grasp the need for a general knowledge of different conceptual, theoretical and methodological perspectives to analyze and understand the European Union, and consequently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use various conceptual frames, theoretical approaches and methodological tools, that attempt to provide answers to the fundamental and practical questions that the European project is confronted with; • utilize means of comparison to answer to which degree similarities and differences across Europe exist, and how they define Europe at large; <p>LO4. 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"> • of the importance of the academic knowledge development of various disciplines that feed into the understanding and explanation of Europe; • 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.
Course objectives	<p>At the end of this course students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grasp the basic concepts for the analysis of politics and political institutions and processes. 2. Comprehend the nature of different political regimes and democracies in particular. 3. Comprehend the basis and organization of the state 4. Discuss the role of different actors in the political process 5. Comprehend the cultural and ideological basis of political behavior. 6. Comprehend the dynamics of public policy and government
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction: Politics and Political Analysis 2. Political power, authority and the state 3. Democracies and authoritarian regimes 4. Constitutions, institutions and territorial power 5. Political cultures and ideologies 6. Political parties, interest groups and social movements 7. Political behavior and elections 8. Public Policy and government
Work format(s)	Lecture

	Teaching will consist of a combination of formats i.e. : lectures, handson workshops, responsive teaching classes, case reports Students are expected to be present, demonstrate active participation during contact hours and prepare courses in case of responsive teaching sessions
Manner of assessment	Written examination, students' autonomous works and active participation. The written exam will count for the 30% -50% of the final grade. The grade of the exercises (including reading reports, oral presentations, and essays) will count between 40% and 50% of the final grade. Active participation (including participation in activities such as conferences and seminars among others) will count for 10%-20% of the final grade.
Literature (required/ recommended)	Handouts, reader, medialinks, video materials, case reports.