



UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID
UNIVERSIDADES NORTEAMERICANAS REUNIDAS

SUBJECT
SUBJECT TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS IN EUROPE
QUARTER AND ACADEMIC YEAR: 1 st quarter, 2025-2026
SCHEDULE: Every Monday and Tuesday, from 11:30 to 13:00
PREREQUISITES: None
COMPETENCES- OBJECTIVES (BRIEF DESCRIPTION): This course offers an overview of the main political systems in Europe, with special attention to Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain and the European Union. It is divided into three different sections: the national models of democracy in Europe; the European Union as a unique political entity; and the different forms of government in twentieth century Spain. The course aims to help students to develop basic theoretical tools to analyze these European political systems and compare them to American democracy. At the end of the course, students will be expected to identify similarities and differences in government formation, parliaments, constitutions and party systems in Europe.

TEACHER
NAME: Luis G. Martínez-del-Campo
DEPARTMENT: Modern and Contemporary History
OFFICE TELEPHONE: None
CORREO ELECTRÓNICO: luisgmar@ucm.es
OFFICE: Seminar 12, Floor 8. Faculty of Geography and History. Complutense University of Madrid, Moncloa-Campus, Madrid, Spain
TUTORING HOURS: In-person office hours (by appointment only): Every Monday and Tuesday from 15:45 to 16:45. /// Online office hours (by appointment only): Every Monday and Tuesday from 10:15 to 11:15

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, LECTURES AND TASKS ASSIGNED
1st Week (September 8 & 9). <u>INTRODUCTION:</u> Introduction to the course (methodology, assessment, readings...); a KPSI (Knowledge and Prior Study Inventory); basic concepts in comparative politics...
2nd Week (September 15 & 16): <u>THE FRENCH FIFTH REPUBLIC:</u> Charles De Gaulle and the 1958 French Constitution; the French President and the French Prime Minister; the concept of cohabitation in French politics; the French National Assembly and the French Senate; the concept of semi-presidentialism...
3rd Week (September 22 & 23). <u>THE UNITED KINGDOM:</u> The Westminster model of democracy; main parties in the UK; First-past-the post and the UK electoral system; the four nations: England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland; the Commonwealth of Nations...
4th Week (September 29 & 30): <u>BREXIT:</u> The UK and the EU since 1973; the UKIP; Euroscepticism and the 2016 Referendum; «Get Brexit Done!»-Brexit negotiations;

the UK after Brexit; the cases of Northern Ireland and Gibraltar...

5th Week (October 6 & 7): ITALY: The 1947 Italian Constitution; the Crisis of the First Italian Republic; Silvio Berlusconi and the origin of personalist politics in Italy; the Italian Parliament and the “perfect” bicameral system; current parties and electoral system in Italy...

6th Week (October 13 & 14): FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY: The Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany (1949); the Bundestag and the Bundesrat; the German Reunification and the German federal system; Angela Merkel and Germany’s leading role in Europe; Germany and the 2008 crisis...

7th Week (October 20 & 21): RECAP TO GET READY FOR THE MID-TERM EXAM.

8th Week (October 27 & 28): MID-TERM EXAM.

9th Week (November 3 & 4): THE EUROPEAN UNION (I). The historical origins of the EU; the Treaty of Rome and the EEC; the European integration; the enlargements of the EU; the political development of the EU, from Maastricht to Lisbon...

10th Week (November 11)*: THE EUROPEAN UNION (II). The European Parliament; the Twin Executive; the Court of Justice of the EU; the European Central Bank; the EU agencies and other bodies...

11th Week (November 17 & 18): SPAIN: THE SECOND REPUBLIC.

12th Week (November 24 & 25): SPAIN: THE FRANCO REGIME.

13th Week (December 1 & 2): THE SPANISH DEMOCRACY.

14th Week (December 9)*: RECAP TO PREPARE THE FINAL EXAM

FINAL EXAM (December 15-19.)

Special session: Visit to the Spanish House of Representatives. To be scheduled.

*There will be no session on November 10 and December 8 (bank holidays).

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

All required materials (readings, videos, podcasts, rubrics, etc.) will be available at the Campus Virtual.

Every week —excepting the first and the second ones— will be divided as follows:

- Monday: Presentation by the lecturer on the week’s topic.
- Tuesday: Presentation of the required reading for the week by one or two students; and a discussion on the required reading (all attendants will be expected to participate in the discussion).

Additionally, the lecturer will use CATs (Classroom Assessment Techniques), such as, for example, one-minute paper or chained note, to monitor students’ progress and to evaluate the effectiveness of the teaching.

SUBJECT OBJECTIVES

This course has five **learning outcomes**. At the end of the course, a successful student will be able to

1. Describe basic concepts related to comparative politics.
2. Identify the main political systems in Western Europe, with a special focus on the UK, France, Italy, Germany and Spain.
3. Establish comparisons between European countries by analysing the similarities and differences in government formation, parliaments, constitutions and party systems.
4. Describe the European integration process from its origins to the present time, identifying the EU institutions and explaining how the EU works.
5. Name and analyze the forms of government in twentieth century Spain.

EVALUATION AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

PARTIAL EXAM: The mid-term exam will consist of a comparison between the

<p>political systems of two different European countries. The lecturer will hand out a text with a few questions. Drawing on previous readings and lectures, students will answer these questions according to the following criteria: Writing (spelling and grammar), argument (originality and consistency), accuracy (provided information will be accurate) and suitable examples: 25%</p>
<p>FINAL EXAM: The final exam will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions. There will be four alternatives for each question. The test will include questions on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Political systems in Europe (10). The EU: History and structure of a unique political system (10). Spain: History and politics (10). <p>The scoring mechanism will be positive marking (each correct answer will be rewarded with a point and the maximum achievable score will be 30 points). 30%</p>
<p>WRITTEN WORK: Students are expected to write a 2,000-word letter to the Spanish Prime Minister to propose specific reforms for Spain's current political system (see guide for the written work) 25%</p>
<p>ORAL PRESENTATION: Each student will present one of the readings or give a short talk on one European political systems or special feature of one of them. There will be a rubric for the assessment: 10%</p>
<p>CLASS PARTICIPATION: Students will be expected to take part in the discussions will happen at the end of every session. The lecturer will assess student's participation through a register: 10%</p>
<p>ATTENDANCE: It is mandatory. From the second absence without justification, a point will be lowered in the Spanish grading system (for example, an 8 will drop to a 7). Likewise, lateness will also be penalized, more than 15 minutes late will be equivalent to an absence. Excused absences are considered those documented by the appropriate physician or program director.</p>
<p>ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Plagiarism, the use of materials not permitted in exams and tests, copying answers from another classmate, falsification or misappropriation of information for assignments, submission of the same assignment or sections of it in more than one course, helping a student who is cheating, etc. The penalty will be left to the discretion of the subject professor and the student's Program Director, in accordance with their campus policies and procedures.</p>

GUIDE AND INDICATIONS FOR WRITTEN WORK

Essay: Students are expected to write a 2,000-word letter to the Spanish Prime Minister to propose specific reforms for Spain's current political system. The assessment criteria are:

- Writing (spelling and grammar).
- Format & structure.
- Comparison to other political systems in Europe or elsewhere.
- Arguments (originality and consistency).

DEADLINE: **December 19, 11 am.** Students should upload the essay to the specific assignment on the Campus Virtual

MANDATORY BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

COMPULSORY READINGS: All required readings will be available at Moodle. Students are expected to read all materials for each session to participate in the discussions.

2nd WEEK:

- DUVERGER, Maurice, «A New Political System Model: Semi-Presidential Government», *European Journal of Political Research* 8 (1980), 165-187.

3rd WEEK:

- LIJPHART, Arend, «The Westminster Model of Democracy» in *Patterns of Democracy: government forms and performance in thirty-six countries*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012, pp. 9-29.

4th WEEK:

- KENNY, Michael and PEARCE, Nick, «Brexit and the 'Anglosphere'», *Political Insight*, vol 10, Issue 2 (June 2019), 7-9.

5th WEEK:

- PASQUINO, Gianfranco, «Italy: The Triumph of Personalist Parties», *Politics & Policy*, Volume 42, No. 4 (2014): 548-566.

6th WEEK:

- MOORE, Carolyn; JACOBY, Wade, & GUNLICKS, Arthur B. «Introduction: German Federalism in Transition?», *German Politics*, 17/4, (December 2008): 393-407.

9th WEEK:

- HANSEN, Peo, «European Integration, European Identity and the Colonial Connection», *European Journal of Social Theory* 5/4 (2002): 483–498.

10th WEEK:

- WEILER, Joseph, «Europe Must Learn Quickly to Speak the Language of Power. Part 1», *EJIL Talk. Blog of the European Journal of International Law* (October 2020): <https://www.ejiltalk.org/europe-must-learn-quickly-to-speak-the-language-of-power-part-i/>

11th WEEK:

- CASANOVA, Julián, & GIL ANDRÉS, Carlos, «A parliamentary and constitutional republic», *Twentieth Century Spain: A History*. Cambridge University Press; 2014: 107-126.

12th WEEK:

- LINZ, Juan J. «An Authoritarian Regime: Spain» in Erik Allardt & Yrjö Littunen, *Cleavages, Ideologies and Party Systems. Contributions to Comparative Political Sociology*, Helsinki: The Academic Bookstore, 1964: 291-341.

13th WEEK:

- CASANOVA, Julián, & GIL ANDRÉS, Carlos, «The Transition», *Twentieth Century Spain: A History*, Cambridge University Press; 2014: 291-327.

ADDITIONAL READINGS (Voluntary):

FOA, Roberto Stefan, & MOUNK, Yascha, «The Signs of Deconsolidation», *Journal of Democracy*, 28/1 (2017): 5-15

JAKUBIAK, Łukasz, «Formulas of Cohabitation in Rationalized Parliamentary Systems of Government. The Cases of France and Poland», *Journal of Comparative Politics*, 11/1 (2018): 51-65.

LAURENT, Annie, «Duverger's concept of semi-presidentialism in France: Lots of shadow and very little light», *French Politics* 14 (2016), 139–152.

LINZ, Juan J., «The Perils of Presidentialism», *Journal of Democracy*, 1/1 (1990): 51-69.

SCHLEITER, Petra, & MORGAN-JONES, Edwards, «Party government in Europe? Parliamentary and semi-presidential democracies compared», *European Journal of Political Research* 48 (2009): 665–693.

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY:

BALE, Tim, *European Politics. A comparative introduction*. London: Palgrave, 2015.

COLOMER, Joseph M. *Comparative European Politics*, London-New York: Routledge, 2008.

DUFF, Andrew, *Constitutional Change in the European Union*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2022.

HANSEN, Peo & JONSSON, Stefan, *Eurafrica. The Untold History of European Integration and Colonialism*, London: Bloomsbury, 2014.

HIX, Simon, *The Political System of the European Union*, New York: Palgrave, 2005.

LEUCHT, Brigitte; SEIDEL, Katja & WARLOUZET, Laurent, *Reinventing Europe. The History of the European Union, 1945 to the present*, London: Bloomsbury, 2023.

LIJPHART, Arend. *Patterns of democracy: government forms and performance in thirty-six countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.

MCCORMICK, John, *Understanding the European Union. A Concise Introduction*, London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2022 [First edition published in 1999 by Palgrave].

VARIOUS, *A Beginner's Guide to the European Union*, London: UK in a Changing Europe, 2022. Full text: <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/research-papers/a-beginners-guide-to-the-european-union/>

VINEN, Richard, *A History in Fragments. Europe in the Twentieth Century*, Cambridge: Da Capo Press, 2000.

ZAHARIADIS, Nikolaos, & BUONANNO, Laurie, *The Routledge Handbook of European Public Policy*, London: Routledge, 2018.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

1. The main European Union home page: https://european-union.europa.eu/index_en
2. Historical Archives of the European Union: <https://www.eui.eu/en/academic-units/historical-archives-of-the-european-union>
3. The European Commission: https://commission.europa.eu/index_en
4. The European Parliament: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>
5. Delegation of the European Union to the USA: https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/united-states-america_en/
6. The Eurobarometer: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/eurobarometer>
7. The Official Journal of the European Union: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/oj/direct-access.html>
8. Global Party Survey. <https://www.globalpartysurvey.org/>
9. Eurobarometer: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/screen/home>
10. ParlGov project: <https://www.parlgov.org/>