UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID

UNIVERSIDADES NORTEAMERICANAS REUNIDAS

SUBJECT
SUBJECT TITLE: Introduction to Comparative Politics in Europe
QUARTER AND ACADEMIC YEAR: Second Quarter 2024-2025
SCHEDULE: To be determined
PREREQUISITES: None
COMPETENCES- OBJECTIVES (BRIEF DESCRIPTION): A historical and comparative study of the most representative political, administrative, and economic models of Europe in the 20th and 21st centuries. The course is divided into two parts: An introduction to comparative politics applied to Europe. Then, a specific analysis of the political systems in Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the government of the European Union, and Spain as a political model that since 1931 has experienced the existence or coexistence of three different political systems: The Republic, dictatorship, and constitutional monarchy. This course aims to provide the student with an overview of different political systems within the European Union and provide the necessary theoretical tools to make a comparative analysis of these systems with the political model of the United States of America.

TEACHER
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TUTORING HOURS:To be determined

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, LECTURES AND TASKS ASSIGNED
Part 1. The comparative perspective 1. Introduction. What is comparative politics (27-28 January 3 February) 2. The transformation of European Politics (4,10-11 February) 3. Types of democracies and political systems in Europe (17-18, 24 February) Part 2. Case studies 4. Great Britain (25, 3-4 March) 5. France (10-11, 17 March) **PARTIAL EXAM March 18th (Part 1 The comparative perspective)**

6. Germany (24-25, 31 March)
7. Italy (1, 7-8 April)
8. The EU as a political system (22-23, 29 April)
9. Spanish Political System: Evolution and current developments (5-6, 12 May)
10. Conclusions: Current political trends in Europe: Stability, change and democratic backsliding (13 May)

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

This course is structured in two parts and ten themes. The first part deals with an introduction to comparative politics and the comparative method. It also includes a broad perspective of the transformation of European politics in the XX and XXI century and presents the comparative debates between types of democracies (consensual and majoritarian) and political systems (presidential, semi-presidential and parliamentarian). With this background, Part 2 is centered in case studies, where the main Western European countries will be analyzed through the lens of comparative politics. This includes an introduction to the European Union as a political system and a more in-depth analysis of the Spanish political system. The course ends with a final discussion on current trends in Europe and a special focus on democratic backsliding, which helps to compare with the US case.

Methodologically, the course includes an initial presentation by the professor on each theme. Students are expected to read the compulsory material for class discussions. Different assignments will be organized for analyzing different features of European political systems using specific databases (but no knowledge of statistics is expected nor needed for the assignments). The readings and data used in class will be available at the Campus Virtual.

Participation in the debates and presentations are also part of the course.

SUBJECT OBJECTIVES

1. To become familiar with the idea and logic of the comparative politics.
2. To distinguish between the main types of democracies and political systems, with a specific focus on Western Europe.
3. To become familiar with specific issues, including government formation, the different types of parliaments, parties, and party systems in Europe.
4. To have a more in-depth and applied knowledge of the political systems of the main Western European countries and the European Union.
5. To become familiar with different datasets that explore public opinion, party positioning and government formation in Europe.
6. To develop analytical skills for comparing political systems in Europe and the US.

EVALUATION AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

PARTIAL EXAM: 25 %

FINAL EXAM: 30 %

WRITTEN WORK OR PRESENTATIONS: 25 %

OTHERS: 10 %

CLASS PARTICIPATION: 10 %

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.

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.

GUIDE AND INDICATIONS FOR WRITTEN WORK

A written essay by the student is compulsory. The essay will be based in some of the issues and discussions that have been analyzed through the course. It will include an oral presentation of the work. Further information on the issues and structure of the essay will be available at the Campus Virtual.

MANDATORY BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Textbooks (includes general perspectives and/or case studies of the main Western Political systems. Specific textbooks on the EU and Spain).

Bale, Tim (2015). *European Politics. A comparative introduction*. London: Palgrave. 3rd edition
Caramani, D. (2020) *Comparative politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
Colomer, Josep M. (2008) *Comparative European Politics*. Abingdon: Routledge
De Vries, Catherine et al (2021) *Foundations of European Politics: A comparative approach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
Hanckock, M. Donald (2012) *Politics in Europe*. Washington: CQ Press
Hix, S. and Hoyland, Bjorn (2022) The political system of the European Union. Bloomsbury. Different editions, 3rd edition 2005.
Lijphart, Arend (2012) *Patterns of democracy: government forms and performance in thirty-six countries*. New Haven: Yale University Press
Magone, José M. (2015). *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*. Nueva York: Routledge
Muro, Diego and Lago, Ignacio (eds.)(2020) *The Oxford Handbook of Spanish Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Specific articles and issues

Foa, Stefen Foa and Mounk, Yasha (2016) The signs of deconsolidation. *Journal of Democracy*, 28(1), 5-15-
Foa, Stefen Foa and Mounk, Yasha (2016) The Danger of Deconsolidation: The Democratic Disconnect. *Journal of Democracy* 27(3), 5-17.
Hobolt. Sarah B. (2016) The Brexit vote: a divided nation, a divided continent,

Journal of European Public Policy, 23:9, 1259-1277, DOI:10.1080/13501763.2016.1225785
Hooghe, Liesbet and Marks, Gary (2018) Cleavage theory meets Europe's crises: Lipset, Rokkan, and the transnational cleavage, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25:1, 109-135, DOI: 10.1080/13501763.2017.1310279
Inglehart, Ronald, and Pippa Norris. "Trump, Brexit, and the Rise of Populism: Economic Have-Nots and Cultural Backlash." *HKS Faculty Research Working Paper Series* RWP16-026, August 2016.
Levisky, Steven and Ziblatt (2018) *How democracies die*. New York: Crwon Publishing
Lijphart,A. (1971) Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method, in *American Political Science Review* (APSR), 65, , pp. 682-693.
Linz, Juan J. (1990) The perils of presidentialism. *Journal of Democracy* 1(1), 51-69
Linz, Juan J. (1964) An Authoritarian Regime: Spain. In Allard, E. and Littunen Y., *Cleavages, Ideologies and Party Systems*. Helsinki: The Academic Bookstore.
Norris, Pippa (2017) Is Western Democracy Backsliding? Diagnosing the risks. *Journal of Democracy*. Web exchange.
Schleiter, P. and Morgan-Jones, E. (2009) Party government in Europe? Parliamentary and semi-presidential democracies compared. *European Journal of Political Research*, 48: 665–693.

DATABASES (some available online, other databases will be uploaded in the Campus Virtual. No need of statistical kwnoledge)

Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES): https://www.chesdata.eu/
Global Party Survey. https://www.globalpartysurvey.org/
Eurobarometer: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/screen/home
ParlGov project: https://www.parlgov.org/
World Value Survey: https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp