



Course Overview

Breve descripción: How does politics actually work? Is good political action and analysis a matter of science, or of human wisdom? The goal of this upper-level course in PPE is to explore leading approaches to these broad questions within contemporary political thought, and test out these theoretical tools in analyzing current political challenges, in the West and beyond. The main dispute to be explored divides formal analytical models inspired by economics, on the one hand, from humanistic interpretive explanations of political behavior and collective action on the other. We will consider the strengths and consequences of each approach as we apply them to case studies drawn from contemporary politics, to be presented by students on a bi-weekly basis. Topics considered may include lobbying, dictatorship, bureaucracy, and local activism. We will read texts from Joseph Schumpeter, Anthony Downs, Elinor Ostrom, Charles Taylor, Daron Acemoglu, James Q. Wilson, and others.

Madrid Trip: This class also sponsors an intensive two-day curricular trip to Madrid on "Diplomacy & International Politics." Students who elect not to participate will have an alternative assignment to complete.

- **Titulación:** Grado en Filosofía, Política y Economía (PPE)
- **Módulo/Materia:** Módulo II: Política y Sociedad; Materia 1: Teoría política y social
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Curso, semestre:** 4º curso; 2º semestre
- **Carácter:** Obligatorio
- **Profesorado:** Mark Hoipkemier
- **Idioma:** English
- **Aula, Horario:** Tuesday, 12h-14h Amigos Aula M2; Wednesday 10h-12h Amigos Aula 06

COMPETENCIAS

CG5 Saber combinar el razonamiento económico con el propio de la ciencia socio-política y de la filosofía para una comprensión holística de la sociedad contemporánea

CB3 Que los estudiantes tengan la capacidad de reunir e interpretar datos relevantes (normalmente dentro de su área de estudio) para emitir juicios que incluyan una reflexión sobre temas relevantes de índole social, científica o ética

CB4 Que los estudiantes puedan transmitir información, ideas, problemas y soluciones a un público tanto especializado como no especializado

CB5 Que los estudiantes hayan desarrollado aquellas habilidades de aprendizaje necesarias para emprender estudios posteriores con un alto grado de autonomía

CE5 Analizar e interpretar desde una perspectiva filosófica los problemas y retos que afectan al ser humano y su organización social en las sociedades contemporáneas.

CE7 Analizar los principales elementos de la realidad política y comprender las condiciones de su racionalidad.



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CE8 Conocer las teorías políticas y sociológicas más representativas sobre la sociedad y la acción humana en sociedad

CE9 Identificar y valorar desde las perspectivas filosófica, política y económica, el papel que la comunicación y la opinión pública desempeñan en la articulación social y las decisiones colectivas.

General Course Program

Weeks 1-4 - Theories of Bureaucracy & Diplomacy

Texts: Max Weber, Anthony Downs, Albert Hirschman, Bernardo Zacka and others.

NB: Madrid Curricular Trip: Diplomacy and International Politics - Jan 18-19

Weeks 4-10 – Theories and Case Studies in Political Action

Texts: Anthony Downs, Mancur Olson, Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Elinor Ostrom, Jason Blakely, Bent Flyvbjerg.

Week 11: An humanistic alternative?

Texts: Alasdair MacIntyre

Formative Activities & Class Policies

Clases teóricas: 60 horas.

Estudio personal: 50 horas.

Tutorías: 2 horas.

Trabajos dirigidos: 40 horas.

Class Policies

1. **Late Work Policy:** Written work that is submitted late will receive a half-letter grade penalty (ca. 5 percentage points) for every two day period after the due date, with the first penalty taken immediately once the work is deemed late. To receive an extension you must have a good and documented excuse, such as a doctor's note or evidence of a family emergency. If you anticipate a problem, contact me in advance.
2. **Policy Concerning Electronic Devices:** I respectfully ask that no electronic devices of any kind (laptops, phones, tablets, etc.) be used in class. Please see me if this poses a serious problem for you.
3. **Attendance** - Attendance is mandatory (except for the Madrid trip, which has an alternative activity for those who choose not to attend). Students have two "free"



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absences, and are liable to a penalty of 2% of the total grade for every unexcused absence after that.

Assessment

Madrid Trip / Alternate Assignment - 10%

In-class & Online Participation: 10%

Case Workshop – 20%

10% - In-class Presentation

10% - Written Report

5-Page Paper: Bureaucratic Discretion 15%. - Due: Fri, Feb 1

8-10 Page Paper – Multi-method Analysis: 30%. - Due: Fri, March 22

5% - Writer's Workshop

25% - Final Draft

Final Oral Exam: 15%

Extra Credit: 2% for a 3-4 page critical response paper, following upon some other group's case workshop. May be done up to twice.

CONVOCATORIA ORDINARIA

Date and Time: May 2024

Oral exams schedule: Various days. Consult with Professor

CONVOCATORIA EXTRAORDINARIA

Date and Time: June 12, 2024,

- Students can either retain their previous grades from each written essay, or submit new work by the exam date.
- The oral exam (which might be conducted on various days, depending on demand) will be worth 35% of the total, including also the participation and trip grades.

OFFICE HOURS



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Dr. Mark Hoipkemier (mhoipkemier@unav.es)

- Despacho 2041 - Edificio Ismael Sanchez Bella - Planta 2a
- Horario de tutoría: Thursday 3-5 PM

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

Anthony Downs – *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Mancur Olson – *The Logic of Collective Action: public goods and the theory of groups*.
[Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Jason Blakely – *We Built Reality: How Social Science Infiltrated Culture, Politics, and Power*.
[Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Bent Flyvbjerg – *Rationality and Power: democracy in practice*. [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

James Q. Wilson - *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do And Why They Do It*.
[Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita – *The Dictator's Handbook*. [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Alasdair MacIntyre – *The MacIntyre Reader* (ed. Kelvin Knight). [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Complementary:

Theodore Lowi – *The End of Liberalism: The Second Republic of the United States*. [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

David Mayhew – *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Joseph Schumpeter – *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Gary Becker – *A Treatise on the Family*. [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

David Skarbek – *The Social Order of the Underworld: How Prison Gangs Govern the American Penal System*. [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Peter Leeson – *The Invisible Hook*. [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Elinor Ostrom – *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective*.
[Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Daron Acemoglu – *Why Nations Fail: the origins of power, prosperity and poverty*. [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)

Mancur Olson - *The rise and decline of nations: economic growth, stagflation and social rigidities*. [Localízalo en la Biblioteca](#)