

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT IN SPAIN (only first semester)

1. Objectives

This course aims to offer a general understanding of the basic foundations of politics and government in Spain from Franco's regime up to the democracy. During the course institutional aspects along with the dynamics of the political process will be studied. To be precise, the precedents of the present-day political system, the way of governing in Spain, the democratic institutions, the model of territorial organisation of the State, the political parties system, the electoral evolution in Spain and the political culture of the Spanish will be all studied.

Certain activities will be organised outside the academic syllabus, such as visits to institutions, attendance at conferences, etc., on which the students will write a short piece of work.

The following set of course subjects is the basic syllabus which will be followed in class. Just before the beginning of the course the teacher will give out a more detailed outline of each topic.

2. Content

FIRST SECTION: *the precedents of the Spanish political system.* Topic 1: Franco's regime. Topic 2: The political transition to democracy in Spain and the constituent process.

SECOND SECTION: *the political and institutional bases of the system.*

Topic 3: The form of the state in Spain: the regional state.

Topic 4: The power structure in Spain:

4.1 The parliamentary monarchy.

4.2 The government.

4.3 The general courts.

4.4 Judicial power.

THIRD SECTION: *political process and protagonists in Spain.*

Topic 5: The political parties in Spain: the parties system.

Topic 6: Electoral system, electoral evolution and electoral

behaviour.

Topic 7: Spanish political culture.

FOURTH SECTION: *Spain in the world.*

Topic 8: Spanish foreign policy.

3. Activities

The students will attend the usual class lectures.

4. Assessment

In order to pass this course, regular class attendance and participation is compulsory as well as passing the final exam - in the month of December - on the dates set by the Authorities in the Centre. The basic material to be studied for the exam will be the notes taken by the student on the teacher's explanations in class, however if the students widen their knowledge by reading the recommended textbook or the books on the following bibliography list or from the activities carried out in class, this will also be taken into account and assessed.

If the students wish, they may do a short piece of work based on one of the topics from the syllabus and this would constitute up to a third of the final mark. The students can also count on the teacher for individual help if they decide to do this. This is completely voluntary, however if the students wish to obtain a "Distinction", they must do this extra piece of work. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to hand in an essay instead of doing a mid-term or final exam.

The global course mark will depend on the exam, class attendance, active participation and the piece of work. Each one carries 25% of the final mark although it is a requisite of the Centre that the students obtain a minimum mark of 5 in the exam and have attended 80% of the classes to have attendance, participation and the piece of work taken into account.

5. Bibliography

Along with the specific and specialised bibliography which will be recommended in class for the preparation of the different classes, the

following book is considered to be a basic general reference textbook:

ALCÁNTARA, Manuel and MARTÍNEZ, Antoña (editors) (2001), *Política y Gobierno en España*, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia.

The following may be useful bibliography for the student to prepare the exam or to do the piece of work:

APARICIO, Miguel A, (1991), *Introducción al sistema político y constitucional español*, Ariel, Barcelona.

BACHOUD, André and MOURIER, María F. (1991), *España una democracia joven*, Editorial Masson, Barcelona.

CARR, Raymond and FUSI, J. P. (1979), *España de la dictadura a la democracia*, Planeta, Barcelona.

COLOMER, J.M. (Director) (1995), *La política en Europa: introducción a las instituciones de quince países*, Ariel Ciencia Política, Barcelona.

COTARELO, Ramon (1992), *Transición política y consolidación democrática*, CIS.

GARCÍA MORILLO, Joaquín (1996), *La democracia en España*, Alianza, Madrid.

GINER, Salvador (Co-ordinator, 1990), *España. Política y Sociedad*, Espasa, Calpe, Madrid.

GONZALEZ ENCINAR, J. J. (director) (1984), *Diccionario del Sistema Político Español*. Akal, Madrid.

GUNTHER, R., (Editor) (1993), *Politics, society and democracy. The case of Spain. Essays in honour of Juan Linz*. Westview Press, Oxford.

HEIWOOD, Paul (1995), *The Government and Politics of Spain*, Macmillan Press, London.

MARTÍNEZ CUADRADO, M., (1996), *La democracia en la España de los años noventa*, Ariel, Barcelona.

MONTABES, Juan (Editor) (1998), *El sistema electoral a debate. Veinte años de rendimientos del sistema electoral español*, CIS-Parlamento de Andalucía, Madrid.

MORODO, Raul, (1984), *La transición política*, Tecnos, Madrid.

PRESTON, P., (1986), *El triunfo de la democracia en España, 1969-1982*, Plaza & Janés, Barcelona.

RAMOS GASCÓN, A., (Editor) (1991), *Spain Today: in search of modernity. Society and Culture*, Cátedra, Madrid.

ROMÁN, Paloma, (Co-ordinator) (2001), *Sistema Político español*, McGraw Hill, Madrid.

TEZANOS, José Félix, COTARELO, Ramón and DE BLAS, Andrés (Editors) (1989), *La transición democrática española*. Editorial Sistema, Madrid.

TUSELL, Javier, LAMO DE ESPINOSA, Emilio and PARDO, Rafael (Editors) (1996), *Entre dos siglos. Reflexiones sobre la democracia española*, Alianza.