



## **25150 - Government and Public Policy (UAB)**

### **Presentation**

La docència i evaluació de l'assignatura, tal i com es descriuen a continuació, es podran veure modificades en el cas que les condicions sanitàries així ho exigeixin.

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La docencia y evaluación de la asignatura, tal y como se describen a continuación, se podrán ver modificadas en el caso que las condiciones sanitarias así lo exijan.

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### **Aims**

This course provides an introductory approach to key concepts, theories and comparative empirical data about government and public policies. The course is organized into two main parts: one offers a macro perspective on topics of government and policy developments, both with a comparative view and with a focus on Spain and Europe; and the other offers a micro perspective by concentrating on the analysis of public policy cycles with a focus on their political and management dimensions. Throughout the course emphasis is placed on the use of concepts and theory to analyse empirical data, as well as on the need to use a historical and comparative view to interpret past and current developments.

### **Contents**

Introduction:

1. Government and public policies: A comparative view.

Macro perspective: Government and policy developments.

1. Policy developments in the welfare state: models and transformations.
2. Comparative policy in the health sector.
3. Comparative policy in the education sector.
4. Policy developments in public administration: management approaches.
5. Government and administration in Spain.
6. Government and administration in Europe.

Micro perspective: Public policy cycles.

1. Actors, politics and policy cycles.
2. Issues and problem definition.
3. Agenda-setting.
4. Decision-making.
5. Policy implementation.
6. Policy evaluation.

Conclusion

1. Public sector challenges.

### **Teaching Methods**

Learning is based on the reading and discussion about empirical and theoretical knowledge. Its aim is to acquire the capacity to formulate questions and answers on the bases of that knowledge ?which is always provisional. Class teaching is organized in 15 lectures (30 hours) and 10 seminars (20 hours) that will cover the topics specified in the Contents section.

Specific readings will be suggested for each topic, so that students may prepare in advance for the lectures and complement information. For seminars, autonomous effort is required previously to each session, through reading, essay writing or other exercises, which allows an informed dialogue with the lecturer and the group. Seminars encourage and complement theory and empirical-based knowledge via discussions, group exercises, and oral presentations.

Tutorial teaching is available for the preparation of essays, presentations and exams.

## Evaluation

Assessment will be based on the evaluation of four types of items delivered by the students:

1. **Each student** will submit **four brief essays** (750 words each one) proposed in class. These essays will combine information from the required readings and some original contribution by the student. The essays will be assessed according to: content (definition and use of analytical concepts), structure (argument elaboration and coherence), originality (examples, argumentation, additional search), and style (syntax and grammar, references and citations). Submission deadlines will be indicated in class.
2. **In groups**, students will submit **five seminar exercises** proposed in class.
3. **In groups**, students will prepare and give an **oral presentation** on a topic jointly proposed by them and the lecturer. Four of the ten seminars will be devoted to these presentations.
4. **Each student** will take an in-class written **exam** at the end of the course. A grade equal or above 4 out of 10 will be a requirement to pass the course. There will be two exam calls: only those students who fail or who do not attempt the first call exam may take the second call exam. In the second call exam the maximum grade will be 5 out of 10.

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

- The average of the grades obtained in the 4 brief essays/exercises are weighed 20%
- The average of the grades obtained in 5 seminar exercises are weighed 20%
- The grade obtained in the oral presentation is weighed 10%.
- The exam is weighed 50%.

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