Programme: B.Sc. Philosophy Politics and Economics

Course: Government and Public Policy (6 cr. ECTS) (2019-20, 2nd semester)

Lecturer: Professor Raquel Gallego (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

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:

Macro perspective: Government and policy developments.
3. Comparative policy in the health sector.
4. Comparative policy in the education sector.
7. Government and administration in Europe.

Micro perspective: Public policy cycles.
8. Actors, politics and policy cycles.
10. Agenda-setting.
11. Decision-making.
13. Policy evaluation.

Conclusion

Learning method
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.

Assessment

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. Each student (individually or in groups) will submit 5 seminar exercises proposed in class.
3. In groups of three, 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.

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 the 6 seminar exercises are weighed 20%
- The grade obtained in the oral presentation is weighed 20%.
- The exam is weighed 40%.

Bibliography

Government, administration and management


**Policy developments in the Welfare State**


Journals
European Journal of Political Research
Governance –An International Journal of Policy, Administration and Institutions
International Journal of Public Administration
International Journal of Public Sector Management
International Public Management Journal
Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis
Journal of European Public Policy
Journal of European Social Policy
Journal of South European Society and Politics
Journal of Policy Analysis and Management
Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory
Journal of Public Policy
Public Administration –An international quarterly
Public Management Review
Public Money and Management
Public Policy and Administration