



UNIVERSIDAD DE BURGOS

DEPARTAMENTO DE DERECHO PRIVADO (ÁREA DE CIENCIA POLÍTICA Y DE LA ADMINISTRACIÓN)

GUÍA DOCENTE 2015-2016
Elections and Electoral Behaviour

1. Denominación de la asignatura:

Elections and Electoral Behaviour

Titulación

Political Science and Public Management

Código

5468

2. Materia o módulo a la que pertenece la asignatura:

Formación especializada: Política y Economía Internacional

3. Departamento(s) responsable(s) de la asignatura:

Departamento de Derecho Privado (Área de Ciencia Política y de la Administración)

4.a Profesor que imparte la docencia (Si fuese impartida por mas de uno/a incluir todos/as) :

Leonardo Sánchez Ferrer

4.b Coordinador de la asignatura

Leonardo Sánchez Ferrer

5. Curso y semestre en el que se imparte la asignatura:

4º Year, 2º Semester

6. Tipo de la asignatura: (Básica, obligatoria u optativa)

Optativa



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7. Requisitos de formación previos para cursar la asignatura:

- English

8. Número de créditos ECTS de la asignatura:

4

9. Competencias que debe adquirir el alumno/a al cursar la asignatura

CG8 Desarrollar la motivación por la calidad
CG10 Desarrollar la capacidad para el aprendizaje y el trabajo autónomo
CG11 Desarrollar la capacidad de liderazgo
CG13 Conocer y comparar diferentes sistemas políticos, culturas y sociedades
CG14 Adquirir la capacidad para desenvolverse en un contexto internacional
CG15 Redactar informes y trabajos de investigación sobre cuestiones políticas y sociales
CG17 Adquirir la capacidad para leer textos políticos y sociales y buscar información en lengua extranjera
CG23 Desarrollar habilidades de aprendizaje que permitan realizar estudios posteriores con un alto grado de autonomía
CE4 Conocer los fundamentos de la política comparada
CE6 Comprender el comportamiento ciudadano y los valores democráticos
CE7 Comprender el funcionamiento de los procesos electorales
CE16 Comprender la política internacional

10. Programa de la asignatura

10.1- Objetivos docentes

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with the theoretical and methodological instruments for the study of electoral behaviour. We will explore the main determinants of turnout and party choice: social cleavages, party identification, ideology, issue positions, assessment of party performance, leader approval and the effects of campaigns. Also, it covers the basic techniques of electoral forecasting (polls, psephology).

The course reviews a variety of state-of-the-art research literature and will require students to analyse some of the main electoral issues with empirical evidence from Europe and the United States. Part of the classes will be held in the computer lab and we will use survey databases in order to explore hypothesis about electoral behaviour. At the end of the semester the students are expected to master the most important concepts and theories of voting as well as a basic knowledge in voting research. This course does not assume previous knowledge of statistics, but it requires some familiarity with Microsoft Excel and working with data and tables.



10.2- Unidades docentes (Bloques de contenidos)

Elections and Electoral Behaviour

1. Introduction: voting analysis

Rational models of voting. Psychological explanations. The sociological approach. Democracy and turnout.

2. Social structure

The social cleavage model. Class, religion, ethnics and national identity as explanations for the vote. The new cleavages.

3. Party identification and ideology

Party identification in the USA and Europe. Left-right orientations and party choice. Polarization and mobilization. Ideology and social structure. Values and ideology. The process of dealignment.

4. Issue and economic voting

Issue effects. Government performance and voting. Retrospective assessments and expectations.

5. Leadership

The personalization of politics. Popularity and leader approval. Incumbents vs. challengers.

6. Electoral campaigns

Do campaigns matter? Media effects.

7. Forecasting elections

Polls. Forecasting models.

10.3- Bibliografía

BIBLIOGRAFÍA BÁSICA

Jacques Thomassen (ed.), (2005) The European Voter. A Comparative Study of Modern Democracies, Oxford University Press, Oxford,

Jan E. Leighley (ed.), (2010) The Oxford Handbook of American Elections and Political Behavior, Oxford University Press, Oxford,

Richard G. Niemi, Herbert F. Weisberg and David Kimball, (2010) Controversies in Voting Behavior, CQ Press,

11. Metodología de enseñanza y aprendizaje y su relación con las competencias que debe adquirir el estudiante:

Metodología	Competencia relacionada	Horas presenciales	Horas de trabajo	Total de horas
Lectures and seminars	CG8, CG13, CG14, CE4, CE6, CE7, CE16	20	0	20
Readings	CG10, CG11, CG13, CG14, CG17, CE4, CE6, CE7, CE14, CE16	0	20	20



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Computer lab work	CG8, CG10, CG11, CG13, CG14, CG17, CE4, CE6, CE7, CE16	16	0	16
Written essay	CG8, CG10, CG13, CG14, CG15, CG17, CG23, CE4, CE6, CE7, CE16	0	40	40
Final exam (take home)	CG10, CG13, CG15, CE4, CE6, CE7, CE16	0	4	4
Total		36	64	100

12. Sistemas de evaluación:

In the second round evaluation the students are allowed to repeat the following parts:

- Written essay
- Final exam (take home)

The part 'Classroom and computer lab participation' cannot be repeated in the second round. The grade of this part obtained by the student in the first round will be maintained in the second round.

Procedimiento	Peso primera convocatoria	Peso segunda convocatoria
Classroom and computer lab participation	30 %	30 %
Research paper on a topic of electoral behavior	40 %	40 %
Final written exam (take home)	30 %	30 %
Total	100 %	100 %

Evaluación excepcional:

Those students that, for exceptional reasons, cannot attend the classes are entitled to apply for a special evaluation procedure. Applications must be submitted to the Law School Dean. If the request is accepted, the student evaluation will be as follows:

- Oral exam on the readings (30%)
- Research paper on a topic of electoral behavior (40%)
- Final written exam (take home) (30%)



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13. Recursos de aprendizaje y apoyo tutorial:

- Learning platform Moodle Ubu-Virtual
- Readings
- Computer lab

14. Idioma en que se imparte:

English