



Curso Académico: 2017 - 2018
Asignatura: Politics and Local Government
Código: 17943
Titulación: Grado en Ciencia Política y Administración Pública
Tipo: Formación optativa
Número de créditos: 6 ECTS
Grupos: 841

1. ASIGNATURA / COURSE TITLE

Politics and Local government

1.1. Código / Course Code

17943

1.2. Titulación / Degree

Grado en Ciencia Política y Administración Pública / Degree in Political Science and Public Administration

1.3. Tipo / Type of course

Formación optativa / Elective subject

1.4. Nivel / Level of course

Grado / Undergraduate Studies

1.5. Curso / Year

Cuarto curso / Fourth Year

1.6. Semestre / Semester

Primer Semestre / First Semester

1.7. Número de créditos / Number of Credits Allocated

6 ECTS

1.8. Requisitos Previos / Prerequisites

Having spoken and written fluency in English. The classes will be taught in English. All class materials will be in English. Oral and written presentations will be in English.



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1.9. ¿Es obligatoria la asistencia? / Is attendance to class mandatory?

Es obligatoria la asistencia a clase/ Attendance to class is mandatory (lectures, seminars and the tutorial session)

1.10. Datos del profesor/a / profesores / Faculty Data

Lecturer:

Prof. Dr. Dña. [Carmen Navarro](#)
Profesora contratada doctora
Departamento de Ciencia Política y Relaciones Internacionales
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Edificio de Ciencias Jurídicas, Políticas y Económicas, 1º Planta, despacho 3
C/ Marie Curie, 1, Ciudad Universitaria de Cantoblanco, 28049, Madrid
Tfno: + 0034 914977611. Fax: + 0034 914974166
eCorreo: c.navarro@uam.es

1.11. Objetivos del curso / Course objectives

This course provides an overview of local government and politics and on how local democracies work. It explores the structures, functions, and politics of the government tier closer to citizens, and examines their relations with upper levels of governments. It will give students the foundational knowledge to understand many of the most important issues facing local governments nowadays. In analysing the different topics, the course will refer mainly to local governments in European countries.

Skills it will develop: gaining fluency in vocabulary on local government; getting knowledge on institutions, tasks and responsibilities of local government in Europe; recognizing national differences in decentralization processes and in forms of government; understanding the strengths and limitations local governments encounter in facing collective problems.



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1.12. Contenidos del Programa / **Course Contents**

Contents:

1. Introduction: the what and why of local democracy
2. Local autonomy. Central local relations and typologies of vertical power relations
3. Institutions, tasks and finances of local governments.
4. City leadership: mayors, councillors and top administrators
5. The directly elected mayors
6. The politics of urban governance
7. The policies of urban governance
8. Challenges and reforms: size, functional and territorial reforms, innovation, citizens' participation

A. Tutorías / Support tutorial sessions

- Once in the semester after the last session
- Students will contact the lecturer by email to set an appointment

1.13. Referencias de Consulta Básicas / **Recommended Reading.**

The readings assigned for the preparation of the final exam and for the activities will be uploaded in the moodle site of the course.

The list below is orientative.

- Denters B. & Rose L.E. (eds.) (2005) *Comparing Local Governance. Trends and Developments*. Palgrave Macmillan (cap. 1 pp)
- Hambleton, R. & Sweeting, D. (2014) "Innovation in urban political leadership. Reflections on the introduction of a directly-elected mayor in Bristol, UK." *Public Money & Management* 34.5: 315-322
- Heinelt, H., & Hlepas, N. K. (2006). Typologies of local government systems. In *The European Mayor* (pp. 21-42). VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.
- Kersting, N., & Vetter, A. (Eds.). (2013). *Reforming Local Government in Europe: Closing the gap between democracy and efficiency* (Vol. 4). Springer Science &



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Business Media

- Magnier, A. (2004). Between Institutional Learning and Re-legitimization: Italian Mayors in the Unending Reform. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 28(1), 166-182.
- Moreno, A.M. (ed.) (2012) *Local Government in the Member States of the European Union* Madrid: INAP
- Mouritzen, P. E., & Svara, J. H. (2002). *Leadership at the Apex: Politicians and administrators in Western local governments*. University of Pittsburgh Pre.
- Pierre, J. (2011). *The politics of urban governance*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Sharpe, L. J. (1970). Theories and values of local government. *Political studies*, 18(2), 153-174
- Sellers, J & Lidstrom, A. (2007) Sellers, J. M., & Lidström, A. (2007). Decentralization, local government, and the welfare state. *Governance*, 20(4), 609-632.
- Verhelst, T., Reynaert, H., & Steyvers, K. (2013). Political recruitment and career development of local councillors in Europe. In *Local Councillors in Europe* (pp. 27-49). Wiesbaden: Springer
- Slack, E. (2000). *The Property Tax-in Theory and Practice*. Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance, Munk School of Global Affairs
- Swianiewicz, P. (2010). If territorial fragmentation is a problem, is amalgamation a solution? An East European Perspective. *Local Government Studies*, 36(2), 183-203.
- Vetter, A., & Kersting, N. (2003). Democracy versus efficiency? Comparing local government reforms across Europe. In *Reforming local government in Europe* (pp. 11-28). VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.
- Wollmann, H. (2014) "The directly-elected mayor in the German Länder, introduction, implementation and impact" *Public Money and Management*, 34, 5, 331-337



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2. Teaching methods

A. Lectures and seminars:

The sessions will combine lecturer's presentations and students' activities. A detailed list of contents, activities and readings will be published in "moodle" two weeks before the start of the class.

3. Estimated workload for the student

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Class attendance | 3 hours x 15 weeks = 45 hours |
| Preparation for class discussion | 3 horas x 15 weeks = 45 hours |
| Research and seminars preparation | 4 hours x 15 weeks = 60 hours |
| Total | 150 hours |



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4. **Assessment Methods**

A. "Evaluación ordinaria":

Students are expected to write and present a final paper. The topic will be assigned during the fourth week of the semester.

The final grade will be the result of weekly work in seminars (40%), participation in class discussion (20%) and the final paper (40%).

To pass the course (5 or above), students will have to get a minimum mark of 3 in the activities during the semester (weekly work + participation in class) and a minimum mark of 4 in the final paper.

B. "Prueba de recuperación":

Students who have completed 80% of the weekly assignments (with a minimum grade of 3) but failed the course, will have to improve the final paper in order to pass.

5. **Cronograma de Actividades / Activities Cronogram**

A detailed schedule of the course will be published at least two weeks before the beginning of the class in moodle.