

Course title: Society and Politics in Contemporary Spain**Language of instruction:** English**Professor:** Toni Rodon & Marc Guinjoan**Professor's contact and office hours:** By email (in-person before the class)**Course contact hours:** 45**Recommended credit:** 6 ECTS credits**Course prerequisites:** There are no prerequisites for this course**Language requirements:** Recommended level in the European Framework B2 (or equivalent: Cambridge Certificate if the teaching language is English or DELE)

Course focus and approach: This course uses the tools of political science, sociology, and economics to study the main political, social, and economic characteristics of Spanish contemporary history. The course's main goal is to give students an overview of the key contemporary drivers of current political debates in Spain, with a particular interest on the Catalan case. The course will take an analytical approach to provide students with tools to understand Spanish contemporary history. In addition, the course takes a comparative approach that will allow students to understand why some countries have followed a similar/different path in many important characteristics.

Course description: This course is divided into three parts. The first part will cover the main events in Spanish contemporary history, paying special attention to the key elements that had an impact on the current institutional, economic, and political configuration. The second part will focus on the institutional characteristics of Spain, such as the role of the Constitution and the main institutions, the electoral system, or the party system. Finally, the third part will examine the main drivers of political behaviour, as well as the role of political culture and political attitudes.

Learning objectives: At the end of this course the students:

Will have acquired analytical skills to understand the main political, social and economic characteristics of contemporary Spain.

Will be able to distinguish the differences and similarities between Spain's political characteristics and other contexts across contemporary democracies.

Will have developed the ability to interpret complex data, as well as to understand the most common tools used in political science to analyse the political reality.

Course workload and teaching methodology: Classes are based on lectures and on in-class simulations and games. Lectures will take a small part of the class and students are expected to actively contribute to the discussion. There will be an assigned reading each week. Students must read the assigned reading/s before the class.

Assessment criteria:

The final grade will be determined as follows

Midterm exam: 30%

Final exam: 40%

Class participation: 30%

BaPIS absence policy

Attending class is mandatory and will be monitored daily by professors. Missing classes will impact on the student's final grade as follows:

Absences	Penalization
Up to two (2) absences	No penalization
Three (3) absences	1 point subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale)
Four (4) absences	2 points subtracted from final grade (on a 10-point scale)
Five (5) absences or more	The student receives an INCOMPLETE ("NO PRESENTADO") for the course

The BaPIS attendance policy **does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences**. The student is deemed responsible to manage his/her absences.

Only absences for **medical reasons** will be considered justified absences. The student is deemed responsible to provide the necessary documentation. Other emergency situations will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis by the Academic Director of the BaPIS.

The Instructor, the Academic Director and the Study Abroad Office should be informed by email without any delay.

Classroom norms:

- No food or drink is permitted in class.
- Students will have a ten-minute break in two-hour sessions.

Weekly schedule:

Week 1

Required reading: Drelichman, Mauricio; Vidal-Robert, Jordi; Voth, Hans-Joachim (2021) The long-run effects of religious persecution: Evidence from the Spanish Inquisition, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118(33).

Day 1: Course introduction

Day 2: History's Long Shadow

Week 2

Required reading: Balcells, Laia (2013) Mass Schooling and Catalan Nationalism, *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 19(4): 467-486.

Day 1: The Spanish Second Republic

Day 2: The Civil War and the Francoist Regime

Week 3

Required reading: Mainwaring, Scott & Torcal, Mariano (2006) Party system institutionalization and party system theory after the third wave of democratization, *Handbook of party politics* 11 (6): 204-227.

Day 1: Transition to democracy I

Day 2: Transition to democracy II

Week 4

Required readings: Carey, John M. & Hix, Simon (2011) The Electoral Sweet Spot: Low-Magnitude Proportional Electoral Systems. *American Journal of Political Science* 55 (2): 383-397.

Bosch, Agustí (2022), The Spanish Electoral System, in *The Oxford Handbook of Spanish Politics*, Diego Muro & Ignacio Lago (eds), Oxford University Press.

Day 1: The electoral system

Day 2: Characteristics of the electoral system.

Week 5

Required reading: Colomer, Josep M. (2022) Political Institutions in a Comparative Perspective, in *The Oxford Handbook of Spanish Politics*, Diego Muro & Ignacio Lago (eds), Oxford University Press.

Day 1: Alternative political systems (presidentialism, other electoral systems...)

Day 2: Mid-term exam

Week 6

Required reading: Elias, Anwen; Franco-Guillén, Núria (2021) Justifying Secession in Catalonia: Resolving Grievances or a Means to a Better Future? *Politics and Governance*, 9(4): 453-464.

Day 1: Territorial model

Day 2: Visit to the Catalan Parliament

Week 7

Required reading: This week's readings will be circulated after week 6 to prepare the simulation (day 2).

Day 1: Territorial model II

Day 2: Simulation institutional design

Week 8

Required reading: Fraile, Marta and Enrique Hernández (2022) Determinants of Voting Behaviour, in *The Oxford Handbook of Spanish Politics*, Diego Muro & Ignacio Lago (eds), Oxford University Press.

Reif, Karlheinz & Schmitt, Hermann (1980) Nine Second-Order National Elections—A Conceptual Framework for the Analysis of European Election Results, *European Journal of Political Research*, 8:3-44 (section 2).

Day 1: Elections in Spain

Day 2: Elections in the AC and in the EU

Week 9

Required reading:

Verge, Tània (2022) Gender Policy, in *The Oxford Handbook of Spanish Politics*, Diego Muro & Ignacio Lago (eds), Oxford University Press.



Day 1: New values

Day 2: Political culture

Week 10

Required reading: TBD

Day 1: Summary key issues

Day 2: Exam