Language of Instruction: English
Professor: Enric Martínez Herrera.
Professor’s contact and office hours: enric.martinez@upf.edu
Course contact hours: 45
Recommended credit: 3 US credits-5 ECTS credits
Course prerequisites: none

Course description:
This course is designed to give both political science and non-political science majors an overview of fundamental issues in the study of Spanish politics. The core of the course is the study of the nature and functioning of the Spanish democratic system installed since the middle of the seventies, paying special attention to the main political processes, institutions, actors, political culture, electoral behavior, political violence, European integration and international immigration. We will spend also some time at the beginning of the course studying the previous Spanish democratic experience (1931-1936), its collapse (1936-1939), the authoritarian rule imposed by Franco and the Spanish transition to democracy (1975-1978) which has strongly influenced the current features of the Spanish political system.

Methods of instruction
Lectures with the support of overheads and few power point presentations. Discussion sessions based on designated readings.

Method of assessment
English required. Work and form of assessment: Two take home exams covering the materials in class and readings and two short essay papers (3-4 pages) responding concrete specific questions using the materials of the reading package.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Class attendance and participation and two short essays to be submitted during the course 40%
Take Home Midterm exam 30%

Take Home final exam 40%

**Absence policy**
Excused absences will only be justified by an official medical report or probable family emergency. Any other reason will not justify an absence to class or changing the date of an exam.

**Classroom norms:**
- No food or drink is permitted in the classrooms
- Students will have a ten-minute break during each hour session

**Weekly schedule**

**SESSION 1**
Introduction to the Course, Objectives, Course format, Principal contents and Overview of the course.
Basic Facts on Spanish Politics I. An oligarchic legacy. The Spanish Second Republic.

**SESSION 2**

**Reading:**

**SESSION 3**
Basic Facts on Spanish Politics III. The Francoist Regime. Its nature and collapse. The institutional legacy of Francoism.

**Reading:**
Raymond Carr and Juan Pablo Fussi, *Spain Dictatorship to Democracy:* pp. 15-47

**Recommended reading:**
Heywood, Paul, Institutional Legacy of Francoism, in *The Government and Politics of Spain,* pp. 57-80

**SESSION 4**
The Spanish Transition from Dictatorship to Democracy.
Reading:

**Recommended reading:**

**SESSION 5**
The Institutions of the Spanish Democracy I: Parliamentarism versus Presidentialism.

Reading:
Lijphart, Parliaments: Concentration vs. Sharing of Legislative Power, in *Democracies*, pp. 90-105

**Recommended reading:**

**SESSION 6**
The Institutions of the Spanish Democracy II: The Central Government, the Executive and the Monarchy.

Reading:

**Recommended reading:**

**SESSION 7**
The Institutions of the Spanish Democracy III: The structure of the Spanish state: The Autonomous Regions (*Comunidades Autónomas*).

Reading:

**Recommended reading:**
SESSION 8
The Institutions of the Spanish Democracy IV: Political Parties and Party System in Spain.

Reading:

Recommended reading:

SESSION 9
Simulation session

SESSION 10
The Institutions of the Spanish Democracy V: Legislatives in Spanish Politics.

Reading:

Recommended reading:

SESSION 11
The Institutions of the Spanish Democracy VI: The judiciary and the Mass Media in the Spanish Political System

Reading:
Heywood, The Judiciary and the State of the Law, pp. 103-120.

Recommended readings:

SESSION 12
Midterm (take home exam)
SESSION 13
The Institutions of the Spanish Democracy IX: The Electoral System in Spain.

Reading:

Recommended reading:

SESSION 14
Elections, political competition and the Spanish voter.

Reading:

Recommended reading:

SESSION 15
Political culture in Spain.

Reading:

Recommended reading:

SESSION 16
Visit to the Parliament of the Autonomous Region of Catalonia

SESSION 17
Political violence and terrorism in Spain.

Reading:
Recommended reading:

SESSION 18
The Politics of Immigration in Spain.
Reading:
Recommended reading:

SESSION 19
The Europeanization of the Spanish Political System.
Reading:
Recommended reading:

SESSION 20
General Conclusion: The Spanish Poliarchy. Majoritarian or Pluralistic? Oligarchical or democratic? Integrating or breaking-up?
Reading:
Recommended reading:
Hispanic and European Studies Program


**SESSION 21**
Final exam

**SESSION 22**
Final conclusions of the course

Last revision: April 2010

**Required readings**

Carr, Raymond; Juan Pablo Fusi, *Spain Dictatorship to Democracy*: pp. 15-47.


Heywood, The Judiciary and the State of the Law (103-120)


**Recommended readings**


Martínez Herrera, Enric. 2002. From Nation-Building to Building Identification with Political Communities. Consequences of Political Decentralisation in Spain, the Basque Country,


