# Comparative Political Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. ASIGNATURAS PRE-REQUISITOS:</th>
<th>None</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. INTENSIDAD HORARIA:</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.1. Horas de trabajo presencial:</td>
<td>192 hours per semester</td>
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<td>2.2. Horas de trabajo independiente:</td>
<td>64 hours per semester</td>
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<td>128 hours per semester</td>
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<td>3. VALOR EN CREDITOS:</td>
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<td>4. PROFESOR:</td>
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1. COURSE OUTLINE

The course objective is to give students theoretical and empirical tools concerning with political systems around the world. In one hand, the theoretical aspects will allow them to dispose of the concepts and debates that endure their explicative and analytical skills about the political systems. On the other hand, the empirical aspect will be supported by representative case studies that will motivate them to apply those concepts and debates.

2. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

2.1. General objective

To study and compare the different political systems, their structures, their history and their performance. The students will increase their capacity to elaborate comparative analysis of the diverse political organisation models conceived and applied in the political realm.

2.2. Specific objectives:

i. To frame the problematic debate regarding the political systems in the current global order.

ii. To study the main and specific concepts involving the discussions about the political systems.

iii. To compare the pros and cons of every political system analyzed in the course, which are paradigmatic to the whole world.

3. CORE SUBJECTS

3.1. The comparative analysis: concepts, methods and strategies

3.2. Political systems and Regimes

3.3. Electoral Systems and Political Parties Systems.

3.4. Case Studies.

4. COURSE STRATEGY

4.1. Class sessions

4.1.1. Oral presentation by selected students (2 per class).
4.1.2. Discussion between the students and the Professor.
4.1.3. Presentation of the main theoretical arguments by the Professor.
4.1.4. Conclusions.

4.2. Independent work

4.2.1. Students are expected to do all the required readings in the class schedule prior to each session.
4.2.2. They might be able to produce questions and reflections about the required texts.
4.2.3. They could address their questions or suggestions to the e-mail: marioursa@unisabana.edu.co

4.3. Research skills enforcement

For the final assessment students will write a research paper (5-7 pages). The topic of this paper is chosen by the students and must be related with political parties and their influence in the political system of a given country. This topic must be previously approved by the professor. Thereafter, students will pick one CPS’ theory and discuss its strengths and weaknesses relating to explain the topic.
Final papers should be printed in letter-sized paper, double-spaced, with normal margins, using a size 12 Times New Roman font.

5. REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The assessment requirements for the course are:

5.1. Theoretical and analytical understanding of the required readings.
5.2. Class participation through assigned presentations, spontaneous discussion or questions formulation.
5.3. Internal consistency and argumentation skills in the writing exams.
5.4. Writing skills (accurate use of the language).

Learning assessments

Exam 1: 25%
Exam 2: 25%
Final paper: 40%
Oral presentations: 10%
**Oral presentations:** Every week there will be two required readings which all students must read and prepare for the class. Nevertheless, once a week two selected students will organise an oral presentation of one reading each (about 10 minutes). They will expose the main hypotheses of the reading, showing understanding and mastering the author’s arguments. These presentations will represent a 10% of the final grade.

### 6. Bibliography

De Cueto Nogueras, Carlos, “El principio de la separación de poder en el sistema político británico: la reforma de la Cámara de los Lores”, en *Jueces para la democracia*, No 40, 2001, p. 88-100
Lijphart, Arend, *Sistemas electorales y sistemas de partidos*. Centros de Estudios Constitucionales, Madrid, 1995,
Camau, Michel y Massardier, Gilles, *Démocraties et autoritarismes*, Fragmentation et hybridation des régimes, Karthala, Paris, 2009
Lemieux, Vincent, *Systèmes partisans et partis politiques*, PUQ, Montreal, 1985

## CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMANA</th>
<th>TEMA</th>
<th>LECTURAS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>COURSE SYLLABI</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>FIRST EXAM</td>
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| 11 | **SECOND EXAM** | **STUDY CASE** United Kingdom  
| 16 | **FINAL EXAM** | **STUDY CASE** France  
| 17 | **FINAL EXAM** | **STUDY CASE** United States  
| 18 | **FINAL EXAM** | **STUDY CASE** Germany  
| 19 | **FINAL EXAM** | **STUDY CASE** China  