Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

TEACHING GUIDE

CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEMS AND MODELS FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

GRADO EN RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Q2803011B UNIVERSIDAD REY JUAN CARLOS
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I.-Subject Identification	
Type	OBLIGATORIA
Teaching period	1 course, 2Q semester
Nº of credits	6
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

This subject wants to provide students with the basic and essential knowledge for understanding the degree that is beginning to take. The matter of “Constitutional systems and models in the International arena" provide the aforementioned elements and basic tools for students to learn in general the political and legal situation of different States with a preeminent role in the international arena.

This matter, though taught by teachers of law, it is really important to understanding all the factors that influence the development and evolution of the world today. But, however, to arrive at such knowledge is necessary to know the beginning of the State as a political organization and monitor its progress very closely. Just understanding the roots of our constitutional system, allows a consistent and adequate analysis of world affairs, both political and legal (but also social).

Since this is a basic subject and there are no prerequisites for courses. As for the recommendations, students should be aware that this subject requires reading texts of differents kinds to help the introduction by the students in the field that develops this subject.

This discipline presented here wants to introduce students to a complex area: the network of legal and political institutions; completion, thus the knowledge of the structures, processes and institutions of contemporary societies.

III.-Learning outcomes

CG03. Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data in order to make value judgements that include an analysis of the relevant political, legal, social, economic, scientific and ethical issues.

CG04. Students must be able to transmit information, ideas, problems and solutions to others, be they specialised or not.

CG07. Students must be able to understand international relations from a perspective based on respect for human rights and the principles of democratic life and multicultural society.

CE01. Students must acquire general knowledge on the source, development and nature of legal systems and protocols governing actions and meetings that regulate interpersonal and institutional relations in national and international scenarios.

CE03. Students must be able to identify, understand and analyse the source, basic principles and development of a democratic and plural society, as well as its confrontation with other lifestyles.

CE16. Students must be capable of understanding and analysing the specific features of political and constitutional models from a comparative perspective.

- Key for degrees not adapted to RD 822/21: **CB** - basic competences, **CG** - generic competences, **CE** - specific competences, **CT** - transversal competences.
- Key for degrees adapted to RD 822/21: **CON** - knowledge, **COM** - competences, **HAB** - skills.

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IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

SUBJECT 1: POWER, STATE AND CONSTITUTION
SUBJECT 2: THE SOURCES OF LAW: a.- The Spanish Constitution; b.- The concept of Law: the organic laws, ordinary laws and regional laws; c.-The Statutes of Autonomy; d.- The Decree-Law and legislative decree; e.-The regulatory power; f.-The case-law, the constitucional custom and general principles of law.
SUBJECT 3: PARLIAMENTARY MODELS: ENGLAND, GERMANY, ITALY AND SPAIN..
SUBJECT 4: PRESIDENTIALIST MODELS: THE NORTHAMERICAN MODEL AND THE LATIN AMERICAN MODELS.
SUBJECT 5: SEMIPRESIDENTIALIST MODELS: THE FRENCH MODEL.
SUBJECT 6: THE MODELS OF EMERGING DEMOCRACIES.
SUBJECT 7: THE AUTHORITARIAN MODELS.
SUBJECT 8: TOWARDS A WORLDWIDE CONSTITUTIONALISM?
ADVERTENCIA. Todos los/las Profesores/as que imparten la asignatura Sistemas y modelos constitucionales en el ámbito internacional, en el ejercicio de su derecho constitucional de libertad de cátedra, tienen flexibilidad para ampliar, reducir o interpretar el contenido básico del programa de la disciplina que se incorpora en la presente Guía Docente, para adaptarlo también a otras titulaciones y estudios. En los estudios del doble grado el temario se podrá adaptar igualmente a los contenidos específicos de estos estudios
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IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Prácticas / Resolución de ejercicios	individual exercises in class/ group works on current Consitutions 3-5 members, to hand in during February and to be defended in front of the class

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V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	30
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	15
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	15
Academic tutorials	18
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	0
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	60
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	22
Preparation for tests and/or exams	20
Total student workload	180

VI.-Methodology and academic programme

Type	Period	Content
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 6	Lessons 1-3.
Group work	Week 7 to Week 14	Lessons 4-9 Presentation and discussion of group works
Tests and/or exams	Week 15 to Week 16	Lesson 10 Final test.

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VII.-Assessment methods

The general assessment method is continuous as established in the *Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes* of Rey Juan Carlos University.
All the assessment systems established in the degree report must be employed, except for those that have a minimum weight of 0%, which can be used by professors in the academic years they consider relevant. Each assessment system may be applied through one or more assessment activities, consistent with the system. No assessment activity can exceed individually 60% of the overall grade for the subject.
The sum of non re-evaluable activities cannot exceed 40% of the overall grade for the subject and, in general, should not have an established minimum grade (except for practical activities in which, strictly speaking, the conditions of the ordinary call cannot be reproduced in the extraordinary call).
Those students who do not manage to pass the subject in the ordinary call, or do not attend this first call, may attend the extraordinary call only for failed re-evaluable assessment activities.
The distribution and characteristics of the assessment activities are described below.

VII.A.-Description and weight of the assessment activities

Continuous ordinary assessment:
The distribution and characteristics of the assessment tests are those described below. Only in exceptional case and for special reasons may the teacher add changes to the Guide. These changes will require the prior consultation with the Subject Head and the prior and explicit authorisation of the Degree Programme Coordinator, who will notify the Vice-Rector's office in charge of Academic Affairs of the modifications made. In any case, the changes proposed must take into account the stipulations of the verified report. In order for these changes to take effect, they must be duly communicated at the start of the course to the students using Aula Virtual.
The combination of activities that are not re-assessable cannot exceed 50% of the subject grade and, in general, cannot have a minimum grade (except for the case of laboratory or clinical work placements, where duly justified), and tests which exceed 60% of the subject weighting cannot be added.
Extraordinary assessment: Students who do not manage to pass the ordinary assessment, or who did not attend, will be subject to completion of an extraordinary assessment to verify their acquisition of the skills established in the guide, only for activities that are re-assessable.
Description of the tests for assessment and their weights.
1. At the beginning of the course, each lecturer will explain how the activities of the subject will specifically be developed.
2. The reassessable activities are the exam and the final work of the subject, which will require a minimum grade of 5 to pass. An exam will be done, representing it the 60% of the final grade. The practical tests and exercises will represent the restant 40%.
3. The sum of the non-reassessable assessment activities may not exceed 40%.
4. THE ORDINARY EVALUATION WILL BE THE SAME AS THE EXTRAORDINARY ONE.

VII.B. Assessment of students with academic exemption from class attendance

Having Academic Exemption from Class Attendance (DAAC) does not imply that students are automatically exempt from participating in the continuous assessment activities or in the training activities of compulsory attendance as established in the teaching guide. Once the exemption has been granted, students must contact the subject's teaching staff, who will propose the adaptations he/she may consider relevant, as long as they guarantee the acquisition and adequate assessment of the learning goals established. Students must maintain adequate communication with the teaching staff so that they may provide information on the dates for training and assessment activities, if these are not established in the programme and available for students at the time of achieving the exemption.
Subject with possibility of academic exemption: Yes.

VII.C. Review of assessment activities

In accordance with the Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of Rey Juan Carlos University.

VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs

In order to guarantee equal opportunities, non-discrimination, universal accessibility and academic success, students with disabilities or especial education needs may request curricular adaptations to follow their studies. These adaptations will be provided by the Unit of Attention to People with Disabilities of Rey Juan Carlos University, in accordance with the regulation which regulates the service for the Attention of People with Disabilities at the University. This Unit will issue a report for curricular adaptations, so that students with disabilities or special education needs must contact the service (at e-mail discapacidad.programa@urjc.es) in order to provide relevant information for different educational alternatives.

VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty

Rey Juan Carlos University is fully committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, so studying at the URJC means assuming and subscribing to the values of integrity and academic honesty set out in the University's Ethical Code. To support this process, the University has Rey Juan Carlos University's Academic Conduct Regulation as well as different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision...) that offer a collective guarantee for the full development of these essential values.

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VIII.-Teaching resources and materials
Basic bibliography
Sistemas Constitucionales Europeos y Comparados. GORDILLO PÉREZ, Luis I. Athenaica, Sevilla, 2020. American Constitutional Law TRIBE, L University textbook series The Constitution of the United Kingdom : a contextual analysis, LEYLAND, P Oxford, 2007 Identity, diversity, and constitutionalism in Africa FRANCIS MADING, D Washington, D.C. : United States Institute of Peace Press Audacious reforms: institutional invention and democracy in Latin America. GRINDLE, M. S. Johns Hopkins University Press. Cultures of legality: judicialization and political activism in Latin America. Autor COUSO., A. J. Editorial Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Pres Título: Constitutional Law of 15 EU Member States Autor: PRAKKE, L. & KORTMANN, C Editorial: Kluwer, Deventer
Consultation bibliography
Título The U.S. Constitution and the constitutions of Latin America / edited by Kenneth W. Thompson Autor THOMPSON, K. W. Editorial University Press of America ; Charlottesville : White Burkett Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia Título America's Constitution: A Biography Autor AKHIL REED, A Editorial Random House, New York Título Manual de sistemas políticos, Autor BUCK, M. y DE CUETO, C. Editorial Comares, Granada
Título Diritto costituzionale comparato. DE VERGOTTINI, Giuseppe. Editorial CEDAM, Padova.
Título Droit constitutionnel contemporain. Autor CHAGNOLLAUD, D Editorial Armand Colin, Paris

IX.-Professors	
Name and surname	ENRIQUE ARNALDO BENZO
E-mail address	enrique.abenzo@urjc.es
Department	Derecho Público I y Ciencia Política
Campus	Madrid - Vicálvaro
Category	Profesor/a Asociado/a
Person responsible for the subject	No
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorias póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	0
Number of sexennia	0
No. of positive evaluations by Docentia	0

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