



FICHA TÉCNICA DE LA ASIGNATURA

Datos de la asignatura	
Nombre completo	Political Geography of Europe
Código	E000010699
Créditos	6,0 ECTS
Carácter	Optativa
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales

Datos del profesorado	
Profesor	
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DATOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

Contextualización de la asignatura

Competencias - Objetivos

BLOQUES TEMÁTICOS Y CONTENIDOS

Contenidos – Bloques Temáticos
Contents – Topics to be covered
Theme 1: THE FOUNDATIONS OF EUROPEAN POLITICS
Topic 1: Fundamentals of European politics
1. Comparison of Europe to China 2. River valley civilizations compared to the Mediterranean
Topic 2: The Greek legacy: Democracy and the cradle of European civilization
2.1 Why Democracy was born in ancient Greece 2.2 The dissemination of democratic/republican ideas into Rome
Topic 3: The Roman/Christian legacy
3.1 Why the Roman Empire was more diverse and less unified than its Chinese equivalent 3.2 Equality before the law as a solution to diversity



3.3 Christian universalism as a solution to diversity

3.4 The influence of Christianity on western values such as liberalism and human rights

Topic 4: The Great Divergence

Comparing political geography of Europe to that of China and explaining European predominance in the modern era

- Ethnic diversity vs. homogeneity
- Central authority vs. fragmentation and internal competition
- The Discovery of the Americas and the acceleration of European progress

Introduce the use of flowcharts to represent historical causality

Theme 2: THE NATIONS OF EUROPE & THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN EUROPE

Topic 1: CENTRAL EUROPE

1.1 Explaining the origins and cultural and political identities of the nations of central Europe

1.2 Renaissance Italy and the birth of capitalism

1.3 Printing and the Protestant Reformation

1.4 Why Germany and Italy unified so late and its consequences

Topic 2: WESTERN EUROPE

2.1 Explaining the origins and cultural and political identities of the nations of western Europe

2.2 Why Britain and Holland created freer market economies than Spain and France

2.3 The success of British colonialism: settlement vs. exploitation

2.4 The French Revolution and the emergence of the nation state

2.5 The Industrial Revolution and its impact on society: the mass society, universal education, innovation, and economic growth

Topic 3: EASTERN EUROPE

3.1 Explaining the origins and cultural and political identities of the nations of eastern Europe

3.2 Why Russia has never embraced western liberalism

3.3 The Balkan conflict

Topic 4: SCANDINAVIA

4.1 Explaining the origins and cultural and political identities of the nations of Scandinavia

4.2 The Nordic model: where does it come from and can it be exported to other countries?

Theme 3: DEMOCRACY, NATIONALISM AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Topic 1: THE RISE OF THE NATION STATE & RESTRAINING NATIONALISM

1. Origins of the nation state: mass society and the French revolution



2. Militarism, rivalry and two world wars
3. International Organisations in the wake of WWII and the new world order
4. Peace in the modern world? The link between Democracy and international trade

Topic 2: THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. The history, institutions, and policies of the European Union
2. Is the EU Democratic? Citizen participation and the challenges of a Europe-wide Democracy

Theme 4: EUROPE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Topic 1: The economic crisis and the resurgence of nationalism

- 1.1 The economic crisis and the imposition of austerity
- 1.2 The rise of the populist right in Europe: country-by-country analysis, identifying similarities and differences, and connecting them to previous lessons on national identities
- 1.3 Immigration, protectionism and the effect they have on the economy
- 1.4 Defining "right wing", "left wing" and "populist". Do these terms provide clarity or lead to confusion?
- 1.5 Brexit: explanation, analysis and future prospects / Post-truth and the era of fake news

Topic 2: Russia

- 2.1 The end of Communism and the creation of a new nationalist narrative
- 2.2 Russian interference in European politics
- 2.3 Russian intervention in Ukraine and the crisis in Belarus
- 2.4 Russian and Western involvement in Syria

Topic 3: Africa and the middle east

- 3.1 Post-colonialism: International Finance, Foreign Policy and Development Cooperation
- 3.2 Tensions with the middle east:
 - International terrorism and the American invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq
 - Hopes and disappointments of the Arab Spring
 - Iran and the nuclear deal
 - Turkey and the resurgence of autocracy and Islamic law
- 3.3 The migrant crisis

Topic 4: Other global challenges

- 4.1 Tax havens and tax evasion
- 4.2 Facing up to China: 5G, espionage, and the pro-Democracy movement in Hong Kong
- 4.3 The environment, clean energy and who should foot the bill
- 4.4 The COVID-19 pandemic



Theme 5: GOVERNMENT AND THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

Topic 1: Elections

1. Local, regional and national politics
2. How are Presidents, Parliaments and governments elected and is it fair?
3. Coalitions and party dynamics

Topic 2: Democracy?

1. Comparative analysis: the degree of independence of the judicial power and of the media across Europe
2. How money buys power: lobbying in modern politics

METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

Aspectos metodológicos generales de la asignatura

General Teaching/Learning Methods of the Subject

Participation and assistance are mandatory. Minimum 5 over 10 points to pass the exams: ordinary and extraordinary.

In the extraordinary call will not be taken into consideration the activities done during the course (individual and group presentations), only the exam final grade.

In Class Learning Techniques: Activities

Oral presentations in groups of two

Independent Learning Techniques: Activities

Preparing oral presentations, studying for exam and essay.



RESUMEN HORAS DE TRABAJO DEL ALUMNO

SUMMARY/DIVISION OF STUDENT WORK HOURS			
HORAS PRESENCIALES			
Theory Classes	Practical Classes	Academically Guided Activities	Assessments
55	0	10	15
HORAS NO PRESENCIALES			
Self-study of Theoretical Content	Self-study of Practical Content	Group Work Exercises	Revision
60	0	10	0
			ECTS CREDITS 6

EVALUACIÓN Y CRITERIOS DE CALIFICACIÓN

Assessment Activities	Weighting
Group essay and presentation in class	15%
Oral presentation and participation in class	15%
Final exam	70%

BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

Bibliografía Básica

H.G.Wells: *A Short History of the World*

Yuval Noah Harari: *Sapiens*



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

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CIHS

GUÍA DOCENTE

2023 - 2024

Tim Marshall: *Prisoners of Geography*

Steven Pinker: *Enlightment Now*

Fukuyama : *The End of History and the Last Man*

Andrew Brooks : *The End of Development*