





5.00 credits

30.0 h

Q1

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Teacher(s)                  | Carvallo Camila (compensates Dupuy Claire) ;Dupuy Claire ;   |
| Language :                  | English  |
| Place of the course         | Louvain-la-Neuve   |
| Main themes                 | This course offers a comparative overview of the major political decision-making actors, institutions, processes and contents of European countries in the post-war period from a principal-agent theoretical framework. The following themes will be addressed: electoral behaviour and societal cleavages; electoral systems; parties and party systems; political representation and parliaments; the formation, structure, stability and decision-making methods of national governments; the policy content and forms in a variety of policy sectors.   |
| Learning outcomes           | <b>At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :</b><br>The aims of this course in comparative analysis is to offer the students an analytical framework allowing them to understand the structure and functioning of Western political systems, their components and interactions between subsystems, and to be able to interpret processes of change. This skill will equally be useful to grasp the functioning of non-Western democratic systems. Students have to gain insight into the degree of linkage and interdependency between subsystems. He must be able to make a critical evaluation of the effects of proposals for institutional reform. Doing so, he will get acquainted with current research methods and techniques and data collection of comparative politics and be able to apply these to new political subjects of comparison.  |
| Evaluation methods          | The evaluation will consider the participation in two activities during the course: one debate and a final exam. During one session of the course, students in groups will have to defend a theoretical position seen in class. At the end of the course, the student will be asked to take a final exam in which the theories seen during the course have to be applied to analyse empirical cases in Western Europe.   |
| Teaching methods            | This course will be held face-to-face.   |
| Content                     | This course offers a comparative overview of the major political decision-making actors, institutions, processes and contents of European countries in the post-war period. The following themes will be addressed: Varieties of democracy; electoral behaviour and societal cleavages; electoral systems; parties and party systems; political representation and parliaments; the formation, structure, stability and decision-making methods of national governments; the policy content and forms in a variety of policy sectors. The courses are given "ex cathedra" but allowing for informal interaction between student and teacher. After the presentation of the theoretical approaches of each component of the political system, is presented a empirical part based on comparative research and practical examples, in order to develop the factual characteristics of political institutions, actors and processes in Western democracies. |
| Bibliography                | Caramani, D., (ed). 2020. <i>Comparative Politics</i> , Oxford, Oxford University Press. Fuchs, D., & Roller, E. 2018. <i>Conceptualizing and Measuring the Quality of Democracy: The Citizens' Perspective. Politics and Governance</i> . Gallagher, M., Laver, M., Mair, P. 2011. <i>Representative government in Modern Europe</i> , Mc Graw Hill. Lim, T. 2010. <i>Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues</i> . Boulder, USA: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Carter, E. & Farrell, D. 2010. <i>Electoral Systems and Election Management. Comparing Democracies 3</i> . Strøm, K., Müller, W. and Torbjörn B. (eds.). 2003. <i>Delegation and Accountability in Western Europe</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press. + 2020 updates  |
| Other infos                 | A keen interest in the politics of other countries, and a good passive knowledge of English (reading and listening). The teacher will provide for a reading list including the most recent and relevant theoretical and empirical contributions to the different comparative politics subfields.   |
| Faculty or entity in charge | PSAD   |

| <b>Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)</b>        |                         |         |              |   |
|---|-------------------------|---------|--------------|---|
| Program title   | Acronym                 | Credits | Prerequisite | Learning outcomes   |
| Master [120] in Political Sciences: International Relations | <a href="#">SPRI2M</a>  | 5       |              |  |
| Master [60] in Political Sciences: General                  | <a href="#">SPOL2M1</a> | 5       |              |  |
| Master [120] in Public Administration                       | <a href="#">ADPU2M</a>  | 5       |              |  |
| Master [120] in Political Sciences: General                 | <a href="#">SPOL2M</a>  | 5       |              |  |