



NAME OF THE COURSE: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

STUDY: DEGREE IN POLITICS

COURSE: 1st

SEMESTER: 2nd

COURSE SYLLABUS

WEEK	SESSION	DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS	GROUP		Indicate different space from classroom if needed (computer room, audiovisual room, etc.)	ACADEMIC WEEKLY PLANNING		
			LARGE	SMALL		DESCRIPTION	FACE-TO-FACE HOURS	HOURS OF WORK PER WEEK (Max.7 H)
01	1	<p>General indications on the aim of the subject, the study and learning method and the skills that the student must acquire in order to pass the subject.</p> <p>LECTURE: Lesson 1.- <i>The Spanish Constitution of 1978: the history of Spanish constitutionalism; the process of political transition and the elaboration of the Constitution; general aspects and basic content of the constitutional text; structural principles of the constitutional order</i></p>	X			<p>The lectures given in a large group are dedicated to explain the subject syllabus. The weekly lectures require the students to previously read the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor.</p> <p>Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 1 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.</p>	1,5 h.	- 3 h.

01	2	General indications on the activities that will be carried out in small groups, the materials that must be used and the assessment of these activities, with special emphasis on the multiple choice exams that will monitor the knowledge acquired in the master classes; introduction to the methodology of these groups: resolution of case studies, analysis of judgements, text analysis, discussions; individual and group work.		X	Audiovisual	The lectures given in a small group are aimed at the active participation of the students, who must have studied the contents explained in the previous week and done the corresponding work indicated for each session.	-	-
		Analysis of documentation sources related to the subject.				Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: The professor will give the students the materials so they have a first contact with the different documents they will use during the course: the Constitution; other legal documents; official publications; jurisprudence (especially the Constitutional Court judgements); scientific doctrine.	0,5 h.	-
		The practice of the constitutional models: analysis and comparison of historical constitutional texts.				Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The students have to identify the characteristics of the different stages of constitutionalism from the most representative texts of each of them. Audiovisual materials might be used for the description of each stage.	1 h.	2 h.
02	3	LECTURE: Lesson 1.- <i>The Spanish Constitution of 1978: the process of political transition and the elaboration of the Constitution; general aspects and basic content of the constitutional text; structural principles of the constitutional order (Continuation)</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 1.	1,5 h.	1 h.
						Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 1 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.		3 h.
02	4	Analysis of the legal framework for the process of political transition.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The students will organize into groups and will have to prepare this session by consulting the legal framework that regulated the change of political regime. The groups will assume the roles of the political forces that took part in the constitutional process to debate in class. In this debate, each group will defend the arguments of the political force they represent.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
03	5	LECTURE: Lesson 2.- <i>The system of rights and freedoms of the Spanish Constitution: the fundamental rights: concept and legal status; the rights and freedoms recognised in the constitutional order; the constitutional duties The protection system for the rights and freedoms: the regulatory guarantees, the Ombudsman, the judicial defence of the rights, the suspension of rights and freedoms.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 2.	1,5 h.	1 h.
						Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 2 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.		3 h.

03	6	Practical activity aimed at finding the manifestations of the structural principles of the constitutional order in the articles of the Constitution		X		The student has to read carefully the Constitution to find within it manifestations of the structural principles of the constitutional order studied in lesson 1.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
04	7	LECTURE: Lesson 3.- <i>The democracy principle as the basis of the constitutional organisation of the State: Political participation and right to vote. Representative democracy and elections. Political parties. Direct democracy institutions.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 3. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 3 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
04	8	Practical activity about the instruments for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms recognised in the Constitution.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: Application of the acquired knowledge to a case related to the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms recognised in the Constitution.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
05	9	LECTURE: Lesson 4.- <i>The organization of State power [I]: The Head of State: the constitutional configuration of the Crown. The Parliament in the Spanish Constitution: the "Cortes Generales" [I]: General characters; composition of the Parliament</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 4. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 4 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
05	10	MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM about lessons 1, 2 and 3. Workshop about the constitutional status and the role of political parties. Preparation for the general discussion about contents of the subject: electoral systems.		X		Evaluation of the knowledge acquired with a multiple choice exam (lessons 1, 2 and 3). Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The professor will organize groups of work. Each of them will read the materials for the workshop before the lecture. Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Each group will be given a role, and they will expose well-argued arguments about the legal status of political parties in Spain. Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Preparation for the session 12 debate: issues, groups' organization, bibliographic suggestions.	0,5 h. - 0,5 h. 0,5 h.	- - 2 h. -

06	11	LECTURE: Lesson 5.- <i>The organization of State power [II]: The Parliament in the Spanish Constitution: the "Cortes Generales" [II]: the autonomy of the Chambers; the statute of the deputies and parliamentary groups; functions of the Parliament: legislative; budgetary; control (reference) and political orientation.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 5. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 5 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
06	12	Practical activity about the electoral systems of the Congress of Deputies and the Senate. Discussion about the different electoral systems and the possible modifications of the electoral system of the Congress of Deputies and the Senate.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: Application of the electoral regulation to a case concerning the distribution of seats in the elections to the Congress of the Deputies and the Senate. Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Each group has to read the materials indicated before the lecture and, by means of a division of roles, they will compare the arguments about the issue debated in the lecture.	0,5 h. 1 h.	1,5 h. 1 h.
07	13	LECTURE: Lesson 6.- <i>The organization of State power [III]: The Spanish parliamentary system: the government formation process; the parliamentary control; the demand for political responsibility: motion of censure and vote of confidence; the dissolution of the Parliament.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 6. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 6 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
07	14	Practical activity about the legislative procedure in the Parliament.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The students, organized in groups, have to prepare this lesson by consulting the documents and the indicated electronic sources about the process of a given law for an exposition in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
08	15	LECTURE: Lesson 7.- <i>The organization of State power [IV]: The constitutional position of the Government. composition and statute of its members; structure and functioning; the functions of the Government: the managerial function; executive function; regulatory power; the cessation of the Government; the caretaker Government.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 7. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 7 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.

08	16	Practical activity about the process of formation of the Government.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The student must apply the constitutional and legal regulation to a case related to the parliamentary formation of the Government.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
09	17	LECTURE: Lesson 8.- <i>The organization of State power [V]: The Judiciary: concept of Judiciary, constitutional principles of its organization and functioning, the structure of the Judiciary; statute of judges and magistrates; the government of the Judiciary.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 8. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 8 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
09	18	Practical activity about the parliamentary control and the demand for political responsibility. Discussion about the parliamentary control and the demand for political responsibility.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: Application of the regulation related to a case of parliamentary control and the demand for political responsibility. Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Each group has to read before the lecture the indicated materials. They, by a division of roles, will do a fictitious control debate.	0,5 h. 1 h.	1 h. 1 h.
10	19	LECTURE: Lesson 9.- <i>The territorial organisation of the State [I]: The territorial form. The autonomy of nationalities and regions: the autonomous communities [I]: Principles of articulation of the autonomous State; the process of constitution of the autonomous communities; the development of the autonomic process; internal organisation of the autonomous communities.</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 9. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 9 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
10	20	MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM about lessons 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Preparation for the general discussion about contents of the subject: the Judiciary		X		Evaluation of the knowledge acquired with a multiple choice exam (lessons 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8). Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Preparation for the session 22 debate: issues, groups' organization, bibliographic suggestions.	0,5 h. 0,5 h.	- -

11	21	LECTURE: Lesson 10.-. <i>The territorial organization of the State [II]: The autonomy of nationalities and regions: the autonomous communities [II]: the distribution of powers; the relationship between the State and the autonomous communities; financing of the autonomous communities. The Local autonomy</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 10. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 10 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
11	22	Practical activity about the functioning of the Judiciary Workshop about the Judiciary and its constitutional principles of organization and operation.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: Application of the rules corresponding to a case related to the functioning of the Judiciary. Activity in the classroom DURING the lecture: Each group must have read the indicated materials in advance and through a distribution of roles, a debate exercise will be carried out on judicial independence and the other principles of organization and operation.	0,5 h. 1 h.	1,5 h. 1 h.
12	23	LECTURE: Lesson 11.- <i>The Constitution and legal Order [I]: The Constitution as a superior legal norm. The reform of the Constitution: nature; constitutional flexibility and rigidity; the limits to reform; procedures. The constitutional system of sources of law: constitutional principles, the Law the regulatory provisions of the Government, international and supranational sources</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 11 Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 11 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
12	24	Practical activity about the internal organisation of the autonomous communities and/or the distribution of competences between the State and the autonomous communities.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The student must apply the constitutional and statutory regulation in light of constitutional jurisprudence to a case related to the internal organization of the autonomous communities and/or the distribution of competences between the State and the autonomous communities.	1,5 h.	2 h.
13	25	LECTURE: Lesson 11.- <i>The Constitution and legal Order [I]: The Constitution as a superior legal norm. The reform of the Constitution: nature; constitutional flexibility and rigidity; the limits to reform; procedures. The constitutional system of sources of law: constitutional principles, the Law the regulatory provisions of the Government, international and supranational sources (Continuation).</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 11. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 11 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.

13	26	Practical activity about the reform of the Constitution.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: Application of the acquired knowledge to a case related to the reform of the Constitution.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
14	27	LECTURE: Lesson 12.- <i>The Constitution and legal Order [II]: The constitutional jurisdiction: nature and models; the Spanish Constitutional Court: institutional position, composition, organization and operation, powers; the control of constitutionality of the law; other powers of the Constitutional Court</i>	X			Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: The lecture of this week requires the previous reading of the course manual and the rest of the materials indicated by the professor for lesson 12. Activity outside the classroom AFTER the lecture: The student must study the content of lesson 12 from the recommended bibliography and the explanations given in the lecture.	1,5 h.	1 h. 3 h.
14	28	Practical activity about the constitutional jurisdiction.		X		Activity outside the classroom BEFORE the lecture: Application of the acquired knowledge to a case related to the position and functions of the Constitutional Court.	1,5 h.	1,5 h.
15	-	MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAM about lessons 9, 10, 11 and 12.		X		Evaluation of the knowledge acquired with a multiple choice exam (lessons 9, 10, 11 and 12.	0,5 h.	-

Subtotal 1

Total 1 (Teaching hours and student work hours between 1-14 weeks)

42 h. **78 h.**
120 h.

15	-	Second chance examinations, tutorials, work submissions, etc.				The students can arrange a tutorial (individual or collective) with the professor in order to solve any doubt with regard to the final exam.	2 h.	-
16	-	Preparation of the examination and examination.				Even though the students have studied during the semester, they will have to study more in order to be prepared for the final exam.	3 h.	25 h.
17	-							
18	-							

Subtotal 2

Total 2 (Teaching hours and student work hours between 15-18 weeks)

5 h. **25 h.**
30 h.

TOTAL (Total 1 + Total 2)							150
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