

1. OVERVIEW

Subject Area	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
Degree	Bachelor's Degree in Law
School/Faculty	Social Sciences
Year	1
ECTS	6
Type	Compulsory
Language(s)	Spanish
Delivery Mode	On campus
Semester	1st semester

2. INTRODUCTION

The subject area 'Constitutional Law and Fundamental Freedoms' deals with the study of the supreme law of the State, the Spanish Constitution of 1978. The aim of the subject area is, on the one hand, for students to understand the basic functioning of the State's major institutions, and on the other, to learn about citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms. Likewise, students will learn about the State as a framework of Constitutional Law, as well as the impact of decentralisation. The study of the law of laws, i.e. the Constitution, implies an understanding of the values and principles on which the whole legal system is based, as well as the legal logic that underpins it and makes it a system governed by the rule of law.

3. SKILLS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Basic skills (CB, by the acronym in Spanish):

CB1: Students have demonstrated possession and understanding of knowledge in a study area that builds on general secondary education, and is typically at a level that, while supported by advanced textbooks, also includes aspects that involve knowledge from the forefront of their field of study.

CB2: Students can apply their knowledge to their work professionally and possess the necessary skills, usually demonstrated by forming and defending opinions, as well as resolving problems within their study area.

CB3: Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant information (usually within their study area) to form opinions which include reflecting on relevant social, scientific or ethical matters.

CB4: Students can communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

CB5: Students have developed the learning skills necessary to undertake further study in much more independent manner.

Cross-curricular skills (CT, as per the Spanish acronym):

CT04 - Communication skills: Students should be able to effectively express concepts and ideas, as well as possess clear and concise written communication skills and effective public speaking skills.

CT05: Interpersonal understanding: Students should be able to actively listen for the purpose of reaching agreements, using an assertive communication style.

CT06: Flexibility: Students should be able to adapt and work in different and varied situations with different people. This involves assessing and understanding different positions and adapting their own approach according to the situation.

CT07: Teamwork: Students should be able to actively participate in achieving a common objective by listening, respecting and valuing the ideas and proposals of the other members of their team.

Specific skills (CE, as per the Spanish acronym):

CE01: Know and understand the components, structure, resources, interpretation and application of the legal system, and interpret the sources and fundamental legal concepts of the different legal systems.

CE03: Understand and know how to apply the criteria for the hierarchy of legal norms to determine the applicable rules in each case, particularly that of conformity with constitutional rules, principles and values.

CE04: Interpret legal texts from an interdisciplinary perspective, applying legal principle as well as social, ethical and moral principles and values as tools for analysis.

CE06: Deliver a convincing legal argument with regard to a theoretical question related to one of the different areas of law.

CE12: Develop critical awareness in the study of the legal system.

CE13: Understand how legal institutions work.

Learning outcomes (RA, as per the Spanish acronym):

R1: Understanding of the constitutional state and the Constitution as the supreme law of the legal system.

R2: Understanding of the hierarchy of sources of law set out in the Constitution.

R3: Knowledge of the functions that the Contribution ascribes to the different State bodies.

R4: Knowledge of the system of autonomous governance established by the Constitution.

R5: Identify the rights recognised by the Constitution, as well as the mechanisms for protecting them.

The following table shows how the skills developed in the course match up with the intended learning outcomes:

Skills	Learning outcomes
CB1, CB4, CT4, CE4	R1, R2
CB5, CT7, CE1, CE12	R2, R5
CB3, CT5, CE13	R1, R4

4. CONTENIDOS

Spanish Constitutions prior to 1978
 The Spanish transition
 The Constitution of 1978: Characteristics
 Constitutional bodies: legislative, executive and judicial power
 The Constitutional Court
 Fundamental rights and freedoms & human rights
 Special protection of rights in the Spanish legal system
 Territorial organisation of the State.

5. TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS

The types of teaching/learning methods are as follows:

Case studies
 Collaborative learning
 Problem-based learning
 Lecture
 Mock scenarios

6. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The types of learning activities, plus the amount of time spent on each activity, are as follows:

On-campus:

Learning activity	Number of hours
Lectures	25
Link theoretical and practical content with current legal/social reality.	25
Build knowledge of comparative law.	25
Autonomous learning	6.3
Academic tutorials	18.7
Carry out research and systemic analysis of legal institutions.	12.5
Development of legal argumentation technique.	12.5
Overview of the professional activities a legal expert may carry out	25
TOTAL	150

7. ASSESSMENT

The assessment methods, plus their weighting in the final grade for the course, are as follows:

On-campus:

Assessment system	Weighting
Essays and reports	10
Presentations	25
Practical exercises	15
Knowledge test	50

On the Virtual Campus, when you open the subject area, you can see all the details of your assessment activities, including the deadlines and assessment procedures for each activity.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

The work of reference for this subject area is:

Derecho Constitucional, Volumen I (2021), El ordenamiento Constitucional – Derechos y deberes de los ciudadanos, Luis López Guerra, última edición, Valencia, Tirant Lo Blanch

The recommended bibliography is indicated below:

Fundación Wolters, ***Comentarios a la Constitución Española, Tomo I*** (2018) , Tribunal Constitucional y Ministerio de Justicia, Madrid.

IGOMEZ FERNANDEZ, I. (2010), *Esquemas de derecho Constitucional* varios autores, tomo XXII, Tirant LO Blanch, Valencia.

PEREZ ROYO, Manuel, *Curso de derecho Constitucional* (16 edición), Marcial Pons, Madrid

PEREZ ROYO, *La constitución explicada a mis nietas*, (2021) DE Bolsillo,

SANCHEZ FERRIZ, REMEDIO (2020), *El estado Constitucional*, Tirant Lo Blanch.

Recommended legal texts:

-*Constitución Española de 1978 (cualquier publicación es válida)*

- *Leyes Políticas del Estado*, Madrid, Civitas, última edición.

- *Leyes Políticas*, Pamplona, Aranzadi, última edición.

- *Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos*

- *Pacto Internacional de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales*

- **Convenio Europeo de Derecho Humanos**

- *Carta de los Derechos Fundamentales de la Unión Europea*

Publicaciones periódicas de interés

- “*Revista Española de Derecho Constitucional*”, edit. por el Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales.

- “*Revista de Estudios Políticos*”, edit. por el Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales.

Useful links. -

www.congreso.es (Congreso de los Diputados)

www.senado.es (Senado)

www.tribunalconstitucional.es (Tribunal Constitucional)

www.poderjudicial.es (Consejo General del Poder Judicial y Tribunal Supremo)

www.cepc.es (Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales)

www.europarl.eu.int (Parlamento Europeo)

www.echr.coe.int (Tribunal Europeo de Derecho Humanos)

9. PLAGIARISM RULES

In line with the disciplinary rules for students of Universidad Europea:

- Plagiarism of all or part of any kind of intellectual work is considered a serious offence.
- Any student who commits the serious offence of plagiarism or cheating to pass an assessment test shall be disqualified from the corresponding exam(s), with the offence and reason for disqualification appearing on their academic record.