

SUBJECT TEACHING GUIDE

G457 - Constitucional Law I

Double Degree in Law and Administration and Business Management Degree in Law

Academic year 2024-2025

1. IDENTIFYING DATA					
Degree	Double Degree in Law and Administration and Business Management Degree in Law			Type and Year	Compulsory. Year 1 Compulsory. Year 2
Faculty	Faculty of Law				
Discipline	Topic: Constitutional Law				
Course unit title and code	G457 - Constitucional Law I				
Number of ECTS credits allocated	6	Term	Semester based (1)		
Web					
Language of instruction	Spanish	English Friendly	No	Mode of delivery	Face-to-face

Department	DPTO. DERECHO PUBLICO				
Name of lecturer	JESÚS MARÍA DE MIGUEL BÁRCENA				
E-mail	jesusmaria.demiguel@unican.es				
Office	Edificio de las Facultades de Derecho y Ciencias Económicas y Empresariales. Planta: + 2. DESPACHO - ASOCIADOS (pendiente asignación D-07) (D251)				
Other lecturers	LUIS GONZALEZ DEL CAMPO				

3.1 LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the constitutional meaning of the Head of State as well as the nature and scope of the functions performed by its head.
- Understand the nature, organization, functioning and functions carried out by the Cortes Generales as an organ of immediate representation of the Spanish people
- Know the essential elements of the Spanish electoral system, as well as understand the consequences of its design.
- Understand the logic and operation of the parliamentary system of government.
- Determine the structure and functions of the different constitutional bodies, as well as the relationships they maintain with each other.
- Explain the principles that inspire the actions of the Judiciary and the organization of the Administration of Justice .
- Explain the organization, structure and functioning of the Constitutional Court.
- Explain the powers of the Constitutional Court. Assimilate the general characteristics of the judgments of the Constitutional Court.
- Know and understand the model of territorial organization of the Spanish State. Know the process of forming the Autonomous State. Explain the constitutional principles of the Autonomous State .
- Explain the institutional organization of the Autonomous Communities, their sources of Law, the system of distribution of powers between the State and the Autonomous Communities, as well as the basic features of the financing system of the latter.
- Know the institutional system of the Autonomous Community of Cantabria.

4. OBJECTIVES

Through the study of this subject it is intended that students achieve the following two global objectives: a) the first objective pursues the achievement of a correct understanding of the nature, composition, organization, functioning and functions developed by the supreme constitutional organs of the State, as well as the proper understanding of the relationships and controls that exist between them; b) on the other hand, the purpose of the subject is for students to know how to identify the great existing models of territorial organization of the State and, based on this assumption, be able to place in such a context the model of the autonomous State designed from the Spanish Constitution of 1978 and understand both its legal articulation and its practical operation.

6. SUBJECT PROGRAM

CONTENTS

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- 1. The constitutional organization of the State: basic concepts.
 - 1.1 The State as an organic framework: historical dimension and Spanish praxis.
 - 1.2 Constitutional bodies and bodies of constitutional relevance.
 - 1.3 The functions of the constitutional State: separation of powers, political direction and control.
 - 1.4 Conflicts between constitutional bodies.
- 2. The Crown.
 - 2.1 The Head of State: evolution and historical meaning.
 - 2.2 The Crown as an organ of the State: functions.
 - 2.3 The constitutional status of the head of state: endorsement and inviolability.
 - 2.4 Succession, regency, minority and Prince of Asturias.
 - 2.5 The Royal House.
- 3. The General Courts.
 - 3.1 The Cortes Generales as a complex body: bicameralism.
 - 3.2 Internal organization, operation and prerogatives of the Chambers.
 - 3.3 The composition of the Chambers and the statute of parliamentarians.
 - 3.4 The functions of the Cortes Generales: legislative, budgetary and control.
- 4. The Government.
 - 4.1 The constitutional position of the Government.
 - 4.2 The President of the Government.
 - 4.3 The composition of the Government, the status of the members of the Government and the acting Government.
 - 4.4 The constitutional functions of the Government.
 - 4.5 Constitutional principles of public administration.
- 5. Relations between the Cortes Generales and the Government.
 - 5.1 The investiture procedure of the President of the Government.
 - 5.2 Parliament and political responsibility: the motion of censure and the question of confidence.
 - 5.3 The dissolution of the Cortes Generales.
- 6. The judiciary.
 - 6.1 The constitutional configuration of the judiciary.
 - 6.2 Constitutional principles of the jurisdictional function.
 - 6.3 The status of judges and magistrates.
 - 6.4 The structure of the judiciary: the General Council of the Judiciary and the Public Prosecutor's Office.
- 7. The Constitutional Court.
 - 7.1 The Constitutional Court and the separation of powers.
 - 7.2 Composition and organization.
 - 7.3 The functioning of the Constitutional Court.

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- 8. The principles of the territorial organization of the State.
 - 8.1 The models of territorial organization of the State.
 - 8.2 The historical conformation of the autonomous State.
 - 8.3 The device principle: the right to autonomy.
 - 8.4 The principle of unity and the principle of solidarity.
 - 8.5 Local entities: democracy and constitutional guarantee.

- 9. The institutional organization of the Autonomous Communities.
 - 9.1 Political institutions.
 - 9.2 The distribution of powers and the regional financing system.
 - 9.3 Relations between the State and the Autonomous Communities: cooperation and conflict.
 - 9.4 The positive and negative conflict of competences and the appeal of unconstitutionality for reasons of competence.
 - 9.5 State coercion: art. 155 CE.

- 10. The integration of Spain in the European Union.
 - 10.1 The European Union as a supranational organization.
 - 10.2 Community institutions.
 - 10.3 The constitutional integration of the Spanish State in the European Union: art. 93 CE.
 - 10.4 Effects of integration in the constitutional organization of the State.

7. ASSESSMENT METHODS AND CRITERIA				
Description	Type	Final Eval.	Reassessn	%
A single written test, of a purely theoretical nature, will be carried out at the end of the academic period and in accordance with the exam schedule approved by the Faculty Board.	Written exam	No	Yes	60,00
Realization of practical assumptions.	Others	No	Yes	40,00
TOTAL				100,00
Observations				
The evaluation system of the subject could vary in response to a change of circumstances completely unrelated to the teaching activity: in this sense, if the course were forced to be carried out remotely, the established evaluation would also be carried out remotely, through of the online platforms (Moodle) and the electronic media made available by the University.				
Voluntary and active participation in the academic activities organized by the Constitutional Law seminar may increase the student's grade up to a maximum of 15 percent of the grade. Those Erasmus students who have special difficulties with the language will take the continuous assessment tests with some modifications.				
Observations for part-time students				
The evaluation procedure for part-time students who do not attend class regularly will consist of taking an exam and/or handing in assignments, which will be indicated by the teacher, on the date established by the faculty for the examination of the subject. . Those who attend class will be able to benefit from the same evaluation as all students				

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEACHING MATERIALS

BASIC

- ÁLVAREZ CONDE, E.: Curso de Derecho Constitucional, Tecnos, Madrid, últ. ed.
- ÁLVAREZ VÉLEZ, A. I.: Lecciones de Derecho Constitucional, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, última ed.
- ALZAGA VILLAAMIL, O.; GUTIÉRREZ GUTIÉRREZ, I.; RODRÍGUEZ ZAPATA, J.: Derecho Político Español según la constitución de 1978, Centro de Estudios Ramón Areces, Madrid, últ. ed.
- APARICIO PÉREZ, M. A. y BARCELÓ i SERRAMALERA (Coords.): Manual de Derecho Constitucional, Atelier, Barcelona, últ. ed.
- BALAGUER CALLEJÓN, F. (Coord.): Manual de Derecho Constitucional, Tecnos, Madrid, última ed.
- BAR CEDÓN, A. (Coord.): Estatuto de Autonomía para Cantabria, Santander, 1999.
- BIGLINO, P., BILBAO, J.M., REY, F., MATIA, J., Y VIDAL, J.M.: Lecciones de Derecho Constitucional II, Lex Nova, Valladolid, últ. ed.
- FERNÁNDEZ SEGADO, F.: El sistema constitucional español, Dykinson, Madrid, últ. Ed.
- LÓPEZ GUERRA, L/ESPÍN TEMPLADO E. y otros: Derecho Constitucional, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, última ed.
- MOLAS, I.: Derecho Constitucional. Tecnos, Madrid, últ. ed.
- TORRES DEL MORAL, A.: Principios de Derecho Constitucional Español. Servicio de Publicaciones de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad Complutense, Madrid, últ. ed.
- * Estado de Derecho y democracia de Partidos, Servicio de Publicaciones de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad Complutense, Madrid, últ. ed.
- PÉREZ ROYO, J.: Curso de Derecho Constitucional, Marcial Pons, Madrid, últ. ed.
- SÁNCHEZ FERRIZ, R. (Coord.): El Estado Constitucional, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, últ. ed.
- Funciones y órganos del Estado Constitucional, Tirant lo Blanch, Valencia, últ. ed.