

## 1. OVERVIEW

<b>Subject Area</b>	Constitutional Law
<b>Degree</b>	Bachelor's Degree in Law
<b>School/Faculty</b>	Social Sciences and Communication
<b>Year</b>	First
<b>ECTS</b>	6 ECTS
<b>Type</b>	Core
<b>Language(s)</b>	Spanish
<b>Delivery Mode</b>	On-campus/Online
<b>Semester</b>	First semester

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Constitutional Law is a core subject area of the Bachelor's Degree in Law, delivered in the first year of the course. It is worth 6 ECTS credits. Students will learn about the main legal norm of the Spanish legal system: the Spanish Constitution. We will address this area of law both generally (General Theory of Constitutional Law) and more specifically in terms of concrete knowledge of Spanish Constitutional Law.

We will study the Constitution as a system of principles and values, as the supreme law, and as the core element that defines power, from a doctrinal and institutional perspective. Furthermore, we will explore the main bodies and institutions of the Spanish State, including their regional organisation.

## 3. SKILLS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Basic skills (CB, by their acronym in Spanish):

- CB1: Students have shown their knowledge and understanding of a study area originating from general secondary school education, and are usually at the level where, with the support of more advanced textbooks, they may also demonstrate awareness of the latest developments in their field of study.
- CB2: Students can apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess the skills which are usually evident through the forming and defending of opinions and resolving problems within their study area.
- CB3: Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their study area) to form opinions which include reflecting on relevant social, scientific or ethical matters.

### Cross-curricular skills (CT, by their acronym in Spanish):

- CT4: Oral or written communication: Ability to communicate and gather information, ideas, opinions and viewpoints to understand and be able to act, spoken through words or gestures or written through words and/or graphic elements.
- CT5: Awareness of ethical values: Ability to think and act in line with universal principles based on the value of a person, contributing to their development and involving commitment to certain social values.
- CT7: Initiative and entrepreneurial spirit: Ability to undertake difficult or risky actions with resolve. Ability to anticipate problems, propose improvements and persevere to ensure they are implemented. Willingness to take on and carry out tasks
- CT9: Problem solving: Ability to resolve an unclear or complex issue or situation which has no established solution and requires skill to reach a conclusion.

**Specific skills (CE, by their acronym in Spanish):**

- CE1: Ability to navigate the framework of legislation, legal doctrine and case law governing public and private legal relations.
- CE2: Ability to understand the law as a systematic, coherent whole, taking into account issues within the socioeconomic context.
- CE3: Ability to develop legal argumentation skills and techniques in another language.
- CE7: Ability to develop critical awareness in the analysis of the legal system.
- CE8: Ability to identify legal issues and provide appropriate solutions to real situations.
- CE10: Ability to understand the differences between the various fields within the legal profession.

**Learning outcomes (RA, by their acronym in Spanish):**

- RA1: Understand the meaning of a constitutional state, based on the fundamental legal concepts underpinning the social and democratic state subject to the rule of law.
- RA2: Understand the Spanish Constitution as the supreme law governing the legal system and legal protections.
- RA3: Navigate the sources of law established by the Constitution.
- RA4: Understand the period of political transition and the constitution-making process in Spain in 1978, and identify how this is reflected in the text of the Constitution.
- RA5: Understand the organisation and function of state powers and how the Spanish parliamentary system works (democratic system of checks and balances).
- RA6: Understand the constitutional arrangement of the Crown as Head of State.
- RA7: Understand the parliamentary role of Spain's *Cortes Generales*.
- RA8: Understand the constitutional position of the Government.
- RA9: Understand the role of the Judiciary in the constitutional order.
- RA10: Understand the system of regional government established by the Constitution.

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

Skills	Learning outcomes
CB1, CB2, CB3, CT4, CT5, CT7, CE1, CE2, CE3, CE7, CE8	RA1: Understand the meaning of a constitutional state, based on the fundamental legal concepts underpinning the social and democratic state subject to the rule of law.
CB1, CB2, CB3, CT4, CT5, CE1, CE2, CE3, CE7, CE8	RA2: Understand the Spanish Constitution as the supreme law governing the legal system and legal protections.
CB1, CB2, CB3, CT4, CT5, CT9, CE1, CE2, CE3, CE7, CE8	RA3: Navigate the sources of law established by the Constitution.
CB1, CB2, CB3, CT4, CT5, CT7, CT9 CE1, CE2, CE7, CE8	RA4: Understand the period of political transition and the constitution-making process in Spain in 1978, and identify how this is reflected in the text of the Constitution.
CB1, CB2, CB3, CT4, CT5, CT9 CE1, CE2, CE7, CE8, CE10	RA5: Understand the organisation and function of state powers and how the Spanish parliamentary system works (democratic system of checks and balances).
CB1, CB2, CB3, CT4, CT5, CT9 CE1, CE2, CE7, CE8, CE10	RA6: Understand the constitutional arrangement of the Crown as Head of State.
CB1, CB2, CB3, CT4, CT5, CT9 CE1, CE2, CE7, CE8, CE10	RA7: Understand the parliamentary role of Spain's <i>Cortes Generales</i> .
CB1, CB2, CB3, CT4, CT5, CT9 CE1, CE2, CE7, CE8, CE10	RA8: Understand the constitutional position of the Government.
CB1, CB2, CB3, CT4, CT5, CT9, CE1, CE2, CE10	RA9: Understand the role of the Judiciary in the constitutional order.
CB1, CB2, CB3, CT4, CT5, CT9, CE1, CE2, CE10	RA10: Understand the system of regional government established by the Constitution.

## 4. CONTENT

- State and Constitution
- The Spanish Constitution of 1978
- The Principle of Democracy as Fundamental to the Constitutional Structure of the State:
  - Representative Democracy
  - The Right to Vote and the Electoral System
  - Elections: Legal Regulation of the Electoral Process
  - Political Parties
  - Institutions of Direct Democracy
- The Head of State The Constitutional Arrangement of the Crown
- Parliament
- The Constitutional Role of Government
- The Relationship Between Government and Parliament

- The Judiciary:
  - General Concept and the Judiciary Under the Spanish Constitution; Constitutional Principles of Organisation and Functioning.
  - The Legal Status of Judges
  - Governance of the Judiciary: General Council of the Judiciary (*Consejo General del Poder Judicial*)
- Constitutional Protections
  - Constitutional Reform
  - Constitutional Jurisdiction
- Territorial Organisation of the State:
  - Territorial Divisions of the State
  - Local Self-Government
  - Autonomous Communities
  - Distribution of Powers
  - The Relationship Between the State and Autonomous Communities
  - Funding of Autonomous Communities

## 5. TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS

The types of teaching/learning methods are as follows:

- Lecture / Web conference
- Case studies
- Collaborative learning
- Project-based learning
- Field experience

## 6. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

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

**On-campus delivery mode:**

Learning activity	Number of hours
Lectures	40 h
Asynchronous lectures	10 h
Case studies	10 h
Essays, text commentaries and critical text analysis	30 h
Group work	10 h
Excursions	4 h
Tutorials	10 h
Independent working	30 h
Knowledge test	6 h
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150 h</b>

### Online Delivery Mode:

Learning activity	Number of hours
Reading of content	60 h
Case studies	10 h
Debates and discussions through seminars or online forums on the Virtual Campus	10 h
Finding resources and sources of information	20 h
Writing reports and papers	20 h
Online tutorials	5 h
Independent working	20 h
Knowledge tests	5 h
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150 h</b>

## 7. ASSESSMENT

The assessment systems, plus their weighting for the final grade for the subject area, are as follows:

### On-campus delivery mode:

Assessment system	Weighting
Knowledge test	50%
Oral presentations	10%
Learning portfolio	20%
Reports and papers	20%

### Online Delivery Mode:

Assessment system	Weighting
Knowledge test	50%
Oral presentations	10%
Learning portfolio	20%
Reports and papers	20%

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