



Programas de Internacionalización Study Abroad 2021

Course title: Democracy vs fake news: the dangers of political Trumpism

Teaching period: July 5 to July 9, 2020

Teaching hours: 22,5

Academic coordinator: PEDRO MARTÍNEZ RUANO

FÁTIMA PÉREZ FERRER

Knowledge area: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. CRIMINAL LAW

1. INTRODUCTION [around 300 words]

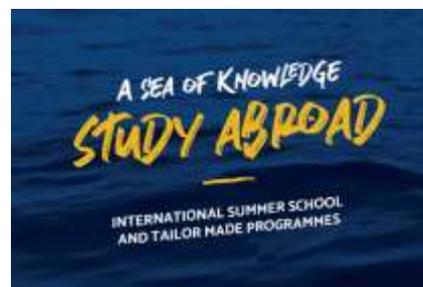
The constitutional state and the organization of political power within it are based on rationalism, in the understanding that only from reason it is possible to organize power in a constitutional state and the relationship of this power with the citizens. Trumpism and populism express the opposite: the unnecessary nature of the limitation of political power, the absence of respect for the rights and freedoms of citizens, the elimination of the liberal character of the state, and its monopoly in favor of the private interests of the leader. Fake news and lies — as an instrument of access and maintenance in power — mean the destruction of the basis of any democratic state, which should be the free shaping of citizens' opinions based on the exercise of freedom of expression and the right to receive truthful information. The absence of truthfulness and the construction of political movements based on irrational, unfounded theories or lies leads to a society incapable of making free decisions and doomed to the loss of democracy.

The objective of this course is to analyze the configuration of political power within a constitutional state, defining what its constitutive elements must be, democratic legitimacy, the division of powers, accountability and the establishment of a set of control mechanism for the performance of the activity and public positions.

From a constitutional point of view, the principles that must be respected for a state to be qualified as constitutional will be analyzed: democratic principle, division of powers, rule of law, control system and balance between powers; as well as the concrete configuration of said model in the Spanish constitutional system. From a criminal point of view, all the criminal typologies that may affect the performance of public positions and functions will be studied, tending to guarantee the principles set forth above.

2. OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the importance of the defining elements of a constitutional



Programas de Internacionalización Study Abroad 2021

- model of organization of political power.
2. To determine the configuration of political power in a constitutional state
 3. To determine the mechanisms for demands of responsibility for the performance of public positions and functions: Political responsibility and criminal responsibility.

3. CONTENT	
Modules	Description
MODULE A <i>THE CONSTITUTIONAL STATE</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONCEPT • ORIGIN • CHARACTERS
MODULE B <i>THE CONFIGURATION OF THE POLITICAL POWER IN THE SPANISH CONSTITUTION</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">THE PRINCIPLE OF DISTRIBUTION OF ATTRIBUTIONS AND COMPETENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEAD OF STATE • THE LEGISLATIVE POWER • THE EXECUTIVE POWER • THE JUDICIAL POWER • THE TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION OF POWER
MODULE C <i>THE CONSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE CONTROL OF POLITICAL POWER</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE POWER: Investiture, control sessions, motions, interpellations and questions. Motion of censure and question of confidence. • THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT • THE OMBUDSMAN
MODULE D <i>LIABILITY IN THE CRIMINAL LAW</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION • CRIMES AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
MODULE E <i>LIABILITY IN THE CRIMINAL LAW</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRIMES AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION • CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER

4. METHODOLOGY [200-250 words]

Participatory master classes.



Programas de Internacionalización Study Abroad 2021

*Practical classes for solving cases, preparing materials and analyzing texts and documents.
Development of cooperative work in groups, making materials and exposing them
Spanish Language*

5. PROFESSIONAL VISITS AND COMPLEMENTARY ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Visit:

- Almería city council*
- Subdelegation of the government of the Nation.*
- Delegation of the government of the Junta de Andalucía*

6. ASSESSMENT

To pass this course, an individualized formative evaluation will be carried out. It will be necessary to attend at least 80% of the face-to-face sessions and participation in class will be valued positively.

7. LECTURERS

PEDRO MARTÍNEZ RUANO

Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Almería

Graduated in Law from the University of Granada in 1995.

Doctor of Law from the University of Almería, in 2001, carrying out his doctoral thesis on "The electoral administration".

He has carried out research stays at the University of La Sapienza, Rome and at the University of Pisa.

He has taught numerous doctoral, master's and master's degrees, both in Europe and in Mexico, where he has taught at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, the Universidad de Xalapa, the Universidad Metropolitana de Monterrey and at the National Bar Association of Mexico.



Programas de Internacionalización Study Abroad 2021

Director of numerous doctoral theses.

He is the author of numerous works on electoral law, fundamental rights and regional law.

From 2003 to 2013 he held the position of Deputy Secretary General of the University of Almería, and from 2013-15 that of Secretary General of the same.

Fátima Pérez Ferrer has a doctorate in Law from the University of Almería (2004), lawyer and author of numerous publications related to the General and Special Part of Criminal Law. In addition, he is a member of different research projects at the national level on issues related to road safety, gender violence, minors, drug trafficking, criminal law and the environment, crimes against consumers, urban planning and corruption. Visiting professor at the Institut Für Die Gesamten Strafrechtswissenschaften, Germany, and member of the Andalusian Council of Universities.

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