

BASICS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge of the nature and institutions of the State and its political and administrative procedures constitutes a fundamental part of a social worker's training given that the State and its procedures incorporate or at least provide the context for social intervention. In this regard, *Basics of Political Science and Administration* offers social workers both knowledge of a series of essential concepts to which they may refer during their work as well as the ability to analyse the situation and the structural dynamics that condition it.

COMPETENCIES

- Knowledge of the concepts, institutions and processes of political science and administration.
- Development of critical faculties and analytical abilities necessary to incorporate knowledge of the above.
- Understand the structure and operation of State powers, systems and political institutions.
- Know and understand the classical formulations on public administration and the new concepts and innovative formulas relating to it.

CONTENT

I. POLITICAL STRUCTURES

1. The State. Constituent elements. Origin, evolution, foundations and forms of State. The Welfare State. Post-state theory.
2. State and nation. Political and cultural nations. Processes in constructing a nation. Sovereignty and self-determination.
3. Institutional organization of power. Division of powers. Parliamentary, presidential and semi-presidential systems. Constitutional engineering. Control of constitutionality.
4. Administration. Historical forms. Bureaucracy and post-bureaucracy. Political-administrative interaction. Comparison of models.

II. ACTORS AND PROCESSES

5. Democratic legitimacy. Systems of representation. Political parties. Party systems. Representation and opinion in the context of new technologies. Pressure groups and social movements.
6. Political culture and ideologies.
7. Regional arrangement of power. Autonomous State. Federalism.

III. THE SPANISH POLITICAL SYSTEM

8. The 1978 constitutional framework and its implementation. State institutions.
9. Political actors: parties and elections. Autonomous sub-systems.