Course syllabus

Political Science

For the Master Program 41.04.04 "Politics. Economics. Philosophy"

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**Course description and scope**

The purpose of this course is to give students basic knowledge about politics. The course consists of seven overarching subfields. The reading material includes both theoretical (methodological) and empirical texts that show the applications of theories in the field. The main focus of the course is on active participation and discussion. The present program established minimum demands of students’ knowledge and skills. At the same time students are encouraged to read as many of the recommended texts as possible.

**Learning Objectives**

- to provide students with the knowledge of core concepts and models of politics;
- to overview of the main political science developments, trends and structures in Europe, East Europe in particular and beyond;
- to give opportunities to students to apply political theory to analysis of up-to-date debates about political events.

**Learning Outcomes**

The students are supposed to adopt the following competences:

- ability to recognize basic scientific (political) information and its sources;
- ability to see connection between the creation and development of political science theories and concepts, and the needs for a new understanding of political processes in specific political regimes;
- ability to apply knowledge of political science, to analyze current policies and political events.

**Grading System**

Final grade:

- Final exam (test) ......................................40%;
- Participation in the class..........................60%.

**Course Plan**

1. **The Concept of the Political. Politics and Power**

Required reading:


Schmitt, K. The Concept of the Political.

Weber, M. Politics as Vocation.
2. Why Do Institutions Matter? The Modern State and Its Evolution

Required:


Optional:


3. Political Behavior: Basic Approaches to Political Participation and Voting

Required:

Optional:


Required:

Optional:


5. Democracies and Autocracies. Regime Changes in the Post-Communism

Required:

Geddes B. What Do We Know About Democratization After Twenty Years? Annual Review Political Science, 1999, 2.


Optional:


6. Comparative Political Studies. What’s New? Quality of Institutions, Fiscal Federalism and Subnational Political Regimes

Required:


Optional:


7. Political Ideologies

Required:


Burke, E. Reflections on the Revolution in France.


Mannheim K. Ideology and Utopia.

