

Syllabus  
**Political Science**  
(3 ECTS)

Lecturer & Seminar Teacher – Ilya Gorelskiy, BA in Political Science

## **1. Course Description**

### **Pre-requisites**

- Basic knowledge of history and philosophy
- English (Upper-Intermediate or higher)

### **Abstract**

The goal of this bridging course is to familiarize students with the basic concepts of political science. As part of the course, attention will be paid to: (1) the nature of politics and the concept of “political”; (2) the basic interpretations of power, legitimacy and authority; (3) the paradigms of political science, the methodological features of institutionalism and the approaches to the definition of institutions; (4-5) the states and the parties as one of the main units of political science analysis; (6) the consideration of typologies of political regimes; (7) the concepts of political culture and political modernization. The work of students during the course is focused on their independent acquaintance with the proposed reading, which is the starting point for their active participation in seminar discussions.

## **2. Learning Objectives**

This bridging course is aimed at gaining the basic knowledge in the field of political science by students. The result of mastering the course should be, among other things, the development of critical thinking skills among students, as well as the formation of their standards of research work

in this field. The proposed forms of knowledge control are also aimed at developing the skill of writing brief reviews of academic articles in terms of their key ideas and main results.

### **3. Learning Outcomes**

As a result, students should:

#### **Know:**

- The basic concepts of political science.
- The logic of the development of political science and its main methodological approaches.

#### **Be able to:**

- Use the acquired knowledge in a comparative analysis of political processes.
- Establish the relationship between the theories of political science and the actual functioning of political institutions and processes.

#### **Have:**

- Working skills with political science literature in English.
- Critical thinking skills to analyze political processes based on theories and concepts considered during the course.

### **4. Course Plan**

- **Theme 1. What are Politics, Political and Political Science?**
  - The nature of politics.
  - The concept of political.
  - Political science: its history, functions and evolution of ideas.
- **Theme 2. The Concepts of Power, Legitimacy and Authority**
  - The evolution of ideas about power. Its interpretation and formulas.
  - Types of authority and legitimacy.
  - How can one rule?
- **Theme 3. The Main Paradigms in Political Science. Political Institutions**
  - The basic principles of behaviouralism in psychology and political science.
  - Rational choice theory in political science.
  - Political institutions: classical and modern approaches to the definition. Functions of political institutions.
  - “Old” and “New” institutionalism(-s).

- **Theme 4. The Modern State and Its Evolution**
  - The reasons for the approval of a national state: the possibility of an alternative path.
  - Stateness and state capacity: the field of comparative politics.
  - Forms of government: key actors.
- **Theme 5. Electoral Systems and Political Parties**
  - Political parties: its functions and types. Types of party systems.
  - Advantages and disadvantages of various types of electoral systems.
  - Duverger's laws.
- **Theme 6. Political Regimes and Their Typologies**
  - Political system: black box concept.
  - Typologies of political regimes. Democracy and Autocracy.
  - Waves of democratization.
- **Theme 7. Political Culture, Political Development and Political Modernization**
  - The evolution of the political culture's concept, its structure and functions.
  - Max Weber's ideal type of bureaucracy as the basis of the political order.
  - Political modernization: aspects and types. Crises of political development: concept, causes, threats.

## 5. Reading List

### 1) What are Politics, Political and Political Science?

#### Required Reading

- Keohane R. O. Political Science as a Vocation // *PS: Political Science & Politics*. – 2009. – Vol. 42. – No. 2. – P. 359-363.
- Mansbridge J. What is Political Science For? // *Perspectives on Politics*. – 2014. – Vol. 12. – No. 1. – P. 8-17.
- Schmitt C. The Concept of the Political // In *The Concept of the Political: Expanded Edition* [Ed. by G. Schwab & T.B. Strong]. – Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. – P. 19-79.
- Weber M. Politics as a Vocation // In *The Vocation Lectures* [Ed. by D.S. Owen, T.B. Strong]. – Cambridge: Hackett Publishing, 2004. – P. 32-94.

## **Further Reading**

- Masters R. D. *The Nature of Politics*. – New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989. – 315 p.
- Warren M. E. What is Political? // *Journal of Theoretical Politics*. – 1999. – Vol. 11. – No. 2. – P. 207-231.
- Weisberg H. F. *Political Science: The Science of Politics*. – New York: Algora Publishing, 2007. – 320 p.

## **2) The Concepts of Power, Legitimacy and Authority**

### **Required Reading**

- Bachrach P., Baratz M. S. Two Faces of Power // *American Political Science Review*. – 1962. – Vol. 56. – No. 4. – P. 947-952.
- Haugaard M. What is Authority? // *Journal of Classical Sociology*. – 2018. – Vol. 18. – No. 2. – P. 104-132.
- Lukes S. *Power: A Radical View* // In *Power: A Radical View by S. Lukes* [Second Edition]. – NY: Palgrave Macmillan Houndmills, 2005. – P. 14-59.

### **Further Reading**

- Ball T. Power, Causation & Explanation // *Polity*. – 1975. – Vol. 8. – No. 2. – P. 189-214.
- Foucault M. *Docile Bodies* // In *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison by M. Foucault* [Ed. by A. Sheridan]. – New York: Vintage Books, 1995. – P. 135-169.
- Parsons T. On the Concept of Political Power // *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*. – 1963. – Vol. 107. – No. 3. – P. 232-262.
- Weber M. Politics as a Vocation // In *Weber's Rationalism and Modern Society: New Translations on Politics, Bureaucracy, and Social Stratification* [Ed. by T. Waters & D. Waters]. – New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. – P. 129-198.

## **3) The Main Paradigms in Political Science. Political Institutions**

### **Required Reading**

- Hall P. A., Taylor R. C. R. Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms // *Political Studies*. – 1996. – Vol. 44. – No. 5. – P. 936-957.

- March J. G., Olsen J. P. Elaborating the “New Institutionalism” // In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* [Ed. by R.A.W. Rhodes, S.A. Binder, B.A. Rockman]. – New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. – P. 3-20.
- North D. C. Institutions // *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. – 1991. – Vol. 5. – No. 1. – P. 97-112.

### **Further Reading**

- Hay C. Constructivist Institutionalism // In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* [Ed. by R.A.W. Rhodes, S.A. Binder, B.A. Rockman]. – New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. – P. 56-74.
- McConnell S. The Old Institutionalism and the New // *Polity*. – 2008. – Vol. 40. – No. 3. – P. 326-331.
- Lecours A. *New Institutionalism: Theory and Analysis*. – University of Toronto Press, 2005. – 380 p.
- Sanders C. Historical Institutionalism // In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* [Ed. by R.A.W. Rhodes, S.A. Binder, B.A. Rockman]. – New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. – P. 39-55.
- Shepsle K.A. Rational Choice Institutionalism // In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* [Ed. by R.A.W. Rhodes, S.A. Binder, B.A. Rockman]. – New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. – P. 23-38.

## **4) The Modern State and Its Evolution**

### **Required Reading**

- Spruyt H. The Origins, Development, and Possible Decline of the Modern State // *Annual Review of Political Science*. – 2002. – Vol. 5. – No. 1. – P. 127-149.
- Spruyt H. War, Trade, and State Formation // In *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* [Ed. by C. Boix & S. Stokes]. – New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. – P. 211-235.
- Tilly C. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1990* (Ch. 1-2). – Blackwell: Oxford, 1992. – 269 p. (P. 1-66).

## **Further Reading**

- Akhremenko A.S., Gorelskiy I.E., Melville A.Yu. How and Why Should We Measure and Compare State Capacity of Different Countries? Theoretical and Methodological Foundations // *Polis. Political Studies*. – 2019. – No. 2. – P. 8-23 (In Russ.).
- Akhremenko A.S., Gorelskiy I.E., Melville A.Yu. How and Why Should We Measure and Compare State Capacity of Different Countries? An Experiment with Empirical Research // *Polis. Political Studies*. – 2019. – No. 3. – P. 49-68 (In Russ.).
- Hanson J.K., Sigman R. Leviathan's Latent Dimensions: Measuring State Capacity for Comparative Political Research // *APSA 2013 Annual Meeting Paper*. – 2013. – P. 1-28.
- Jessop B. The State and State-building // In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions* [Ed. by R.A.W. Rhodes, S.A. Binder, B.A. Rockman]. – New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. – P. 111-130.
- Mann M. The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms and Results // *European Journal of Sociology*. – 1984. – Vol. 25. – No. 2. – P. 185- 213.
- Shugart M. S., Carey J. M. Presidents and Assemblies: Constitutional Design and Electoral Dynamics. – Cambridge University Press, 1992. – 332 p.

## **5) Electoral Systems and Political Parties**

### **Required Reading**

- Andris C., Lee D., Hamilton M.J., Martino M., Gunning C.E., Selden J.A. The Rise of Partisanship and Super-Cooperators in the US House of Representatives // *PloS one*. – 2015. – Vol. 10. – No. 4. – 14 p.
- Norris P. Choosing Electoral Systems: Proportional, Majoritarian and Mixed Systems // *International Political Science Review*. – 1997. – Vol. 18. – No. 3. – P. 297-312.
- Weber E., De Bal I. Causation, Lawhood and Determinism in Electoral Systems Research: Why ‘Duverger’s Law’ deserves to Be Called a Law // *French Politics*. – 2018. – Vol. 16. – No. 1. – P. 80-95.

### **Further Reading**

- Boix B. The Emergence of Parties and Party Systems // In *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* [Ed. by C. Boix & S. Stokes]. – New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. – P. 499-521.
- Callander S., Wilson C. H. Turnout, Polarization, and Duverger's Law // *The Journal of Politics*. – 2007. – Vol. 69. – No. 4. – P. 1047-1056.
- Duverger M. *Political Parties: Their Organization and Activity in the Modern State*. – Methuen: Willey, 1954. – 439 p.
- Kitschelt H. Party Systems // In *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* [Ed. by C. Boix & S. Stokes]. – New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. – P. 522-554.
- Taagepera R. Electoral Systems // In *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* [Ed. by C. Boix & S. Stokes]. – New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. – P. 678-702.

## 6) Political Regimes and Their Typologies

### Required Reading

- De Mesquita B. B., Smith A. *The Dictator's Handbook: Why Bad Behavior is Almost Always Good Politics* (Ch. 2-3). – Public Affairs, 2011. – 352 p.
- Levitsky S., Way L. A. Elections without Democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism // *Journal of Democracy*. – 2002. – Vol. 13. – No. 2. – P. 51-65.
- Schmitter P. C., Karl T. L. What Democracy Is... and Is Not // *Journal of Democracy*. – 1991. – Vol. 2. – No. 3. – P. 75-88.

### Further Reading

- Arendt H. *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1973. – 576 p.
- Geddes B. What Causes Democratization? // In *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* [Ed. by C. Boix & S. Stokes]. – New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. – P. 317-339.
- Geddes B. What Do We Know about Democratization after Twenty Years? // *Annual Review of Political Science*. – 1999. – Vol. 2. – No. 1. – P. 115-144.
- Kharitonova O.G. Non-Democratic Political Regimes // *Political Science*. – 2012. – No. 3. –

P. 9-30 (In Russ.).

- Morlino L. Hybrid Regimes or Regimes in Transition // FRIDE Working Paper 70. – 2008. – 26 p.

## 7) Political Culture, Political Development and Political Modernization

### Required Reading

- Almond G. A., Verba S. The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations (Ch. 1). – Princeton University Press, 1963. – 363 p. (P. 1-44).
- Huntington S. P. Political Order in Changing Societies (Ch. 1). – New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006. – 512 p. (P. 1-92).
- Weber M. Bureaucracy // In *Weber's Rationalism and Modern Society: New Translations on Politics, Bureaucracy, and Social Stratification* [Ed. by T. Waters & D. Waters]. – New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. – P. 73-128.

### Further Reading

- Pincus S. Rethinking Revolutions: A Neo-Tocquevillian Perspective // In *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Politics* [Ed. by C. Boix & S. Stokes]. – New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. – P. 397-415.
- Pye L. W., Verba S. Political Culture and Political Development. – Princeton University Press, 2015. – 586 p.
- Rustow D. A. Transitions to Democracy: Toward a Dynamic Model // *Comparative Politics*. – 1970. – Vol. 2. – No. 3. – P. 337-363.

## 6. Grading System

The grade for the course consists of the following components:

Participation .....	40%
Summaries (2) .....	30%
Test .....	30%

For each seminar, students are offered literature, which should be carefully read and prepared in detail to discuss. The active **participation** of students in discussions during the seminars



reflects their elaboration of the given material, and therefore is an important part of the final grade (40%).

In addition, students will be offered **two summaries** of any articles (each of 15% of the final grade). The final form of control is writing a **test** during the last seminar (30%).

The final grade for the course is equal to the cumulative grade. Estimates for all forms of control are set on a 10-point scale. The method of rounding the grade: arithmetic ( $\geq 0.5 = 1$ ).

### **Summary requirements**

Students can choose any research article to make its summary. Summary should not exceed 2 page and it should include: research question, main ideas, author's arguments and hypotheses, results. Instructor reserve the right to regulate the number of students who want to write a summary of one article using the online pre-registration form. Only ONE summary can be written on one topic.

**The deadline for submitting the first summary is 29<sup>st</sup> of September 2019 (23:59:59); the second summary – 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 (23:59:59). Deadline extension options: not provided.**

### **Retake Procedure**

If a student receives an unsatisfactory grade for the course, he/she must send all works within a specified time which have not been submitted earlier or for which an unsatisfactory grade has been received.

Upon receipt of an unsatisfactory grade for the first retake, the student is entitled to a second attempt. In this case, all materials will be evaluated by a commission of three people.

## **7. Examination Type**

The exam is not conducted.

## **8. Methods of Instruction**

Along with the traditional forms of conducting classes - lectures and seminars, the following educational technologies are used:

- Group work based on seminar materials

- Written practice exercises

## 9. Special Equipment and Software Support

When preparing for classes, it is recommended to use the HSE electronic resources.

### Software

Name	Access Terms
Microsoft Windows 7 Professional RUS Microsoft Windows 10 Microsoft Windows 8.1 Professional RUS Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010	From the university's internal network

**Audiences for lectures and seminars to demonstrate thematic illustrations and presentations should be equipped with:**

- PC with Internet access
- Multimedia projector with remote control