



# POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

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| <b>Course code</b>     | <i>POL108</i>  |
| <b>Course title</b>    | <i>Political Sociology</i>   |
| <b>Type of course</b>  | <i>Compulsory</i>  |
| <b>Study level</b>     | <i>Undergraduate</i>   |
| <b>Year of study</b>   | <i>2<sup>nd</sup></i>  |
| <b>Semester</b>        | <i>4<sup>th</sup> semester</i>   |
| <b>ECTS</b>            | <i>6, 48 contact hours, 112 self-study hours,<br/>2 hours of consultations</i> |
| <b>Lecturer</b>        | <i>Dr. hp Irmina Matonyte</i>  |
| <b>Study form</b>      | <i>Full time</i>   |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>   | -  |
| <b>Course language</b> | <i>English</i>   |

## Annotation

This course introduces students to the key concepts and main research themes of political sociology (sometimes more narrowly titled as “sociology of politics”). The course presents variety of methodological approaches and favors actors (vs. structures) centered evidence based empirical research. Attention is paid to the classical and contemporary authors in political sociology: Weber, Schumpeter, Putnam, Giddens, Habermas, Castells, etc. The general topics covered include the state and civil society, elites, public opinion, propaganda, political culture, citizenship, civic participation, social movements, non-governmental organizations, political parties, globalization, identities, etc.

## Aims

The course extends the knowledge in political sociology (science of relationships between politics and society, acknowledging that political actors, including governments, political parties, pressure groups and social movements, operate within a wider social context). The course enables the theoretically informed and analytically rigorous evidence-based exploration of socio-political phenomena during the later courses of the Economics and Politics program.

## Teaching and Learning Methods

The course will be taught in English and will use a combination of methods, including lectures, seminars and discussions in the classroom.

Efficient students’ participation will be assured through active in-class discussions of the homework readings.

The students are expected to do **weekly reading assignments** (15-25 long texts) as the basis for regular and focused participation in the seminar discussions. The group of students will be divided into 2 sub-sets and the students from each sub-set will have to formulate 2 discussion questions for the seminar, based on the assigned reading, and to send these questions to the lecturer **24** hours PRIOR to the seminar via e-learning system (i.e.

- 1) since Political sociology 2017 lectures take place on **Tuesdays**, the questions are to be sent by Monday morning, 11 a.m.;
- 2) each student will have to read ALL assigned readings, but she/he has to formulate and send discussion questions from only 3 readings);

Attendance and active participation in lectures and seminars is essential for progress in the course.

## Learning outcomes

| <b>Subject learning outcomes (SLO)</b>  | <b>Study methods</b>                    | <b>Assessment methods</b>   |
|---|---|---|
| SLO1. Have good knowledge about main issues and topics in political sociology.  | Lectures, seminars, homework readings   | Midterm and final exam and in class discussions   |
| SLO2. Be able to understand basic principles of the exercise of power, of the state relations with civil society; individual and group interactions in the political realm. | Lectures, seminars, homework (readings) | Midterm and final exam, homework grades, evaluation of participation in the classroom discussions |
| SLO3. Achieve practical skills of analysis of   | Lectures, seminars                      | Midterm and final exam, evaluation of   |



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| social phenomena in their political settings.  |          | participation in the classroom discussions               |
| SLO4. Acquire habits of socio-political information finding, sorting and critical examining. | Seminars | Midterm and final exam                                   |
| SLO5. Foster skills of public discussions.   | Seminars | Evaluation of participation in the classroom discussions |

### Quality assurance issues

The lecturer assures a variety of teaching methods as well as several modes of self-assessment. The feedback from students will always be highly valued and appreciated (Office hours: each Thursday from 10:00 till 12:00 a.m. (upon appointment via irmmat@ism.lt))

### Cheating prevention

The teaching and testing methods are chosen taking into account the purpose of the maximization of creative-interpretative approach and minimization of cheating opportunities. The course is based and promotes the value of moral integrity. Lack of academic integrity (e.g. plagiarism, copying another person's work, the use of unauthorized aids on examinations, cheating, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others as well as obstructive behavior during classes) will not be tolerated. Consequences for violations range from zero grade given for the assignments over failure of the course up to disciplinary measures for severe cases.

### Course content

| Week       | Topic  | Contact Hours |         | Assignments   |
|------------|--|---------------|---------|---|
|            |  | Lecture       | Seminar |   |
| 1<br>02.07 | <b>Introduction of the course</b><br><b>Explanation of the course assignments</b>  | 2             | 2       | What is political sociology?<br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUE0SPkKXno">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUE0SPkKXno</a><br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzezEaOT7aw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzezEaOT7aw</a>  |
| 2<br>02.14 | <b>What is politics?</b><br>Aristotle, Lasswell, Easton<br>What is Public opinion, how and why to study it   | 2             | 2       | Ppt Public opinion  |
| 3<br>02.28 | <b>State, power, authority, legitimacy</b><br>Hegel, Weber: coercion, authority, legitimacy  | 2             | 2       | Ppt State, legitimacy, authority...<br>Smith Philip. Culture and Charisma: Outline of a Theory// Acta Sociologica, 2000, Vol 43, No 2, p. 101-112.<br><b>2 questions from readings (Smith) to be submitted by 02.27 11:00 am (1<sup>st</sup> group of students, 12)</b>   |
| 4<br>03.07 | <b>Political regimes, democratization, State and nation</b><br>Titular nation, Stateless communities; Modern State<br><b>Social Movements and Non-governmental organizations</b><br>Analysis of Social movements by their principal opponent (threat), type, key issues, organization, tactics, orientation to international sphere, approach to democracy and citizenship, main social base; volunteering | 2             | 2       | Ppt State, legitimacy, authority...<br>Ppt Social movements<br>Michnik Adam. Letters from Freedom, Post-Cold War Realities and Perspectives, University of California Press, 1998// chapter "Towards a Civil Society: Hopes for Polish democracy", p. 96-113<br>•<br><b>2 questions from readings (Michnik) to be submitted by 03.06 11:00 am (2<sup>nd</sup> group of students, 12?)</b> |

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|--------------------|--|----------|----------|---|
| <p>5<br/>03.14</p> | <p><b>Civil society as social laboratories</b><br/>the multi-faceted operation of power: highlighted the importance of discourses of power<br/>can the state ever be truly inclusive<br/><b>Civic participation</b><br/>Pateman, Arendt, Putnam<br/>Political culture, social capital, trust</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>Ppt Social movements<br/>Ppt civic participation<br/><br/>Uslaner Eric. Varieties of Trust// <i>European Political Science</i>, 2003 summer, p. 43-48<br/><br/>2 questions from readings (Uslaner) to be submitted by 03.13 11:00 am (1<sup>st</sup> group of students, 12)<br/><a href="http://theoatmeal.com/comics/trust">http://theoatmeal.com/comics/trust</a></p>  |
| <p>6<br/>03.21</p> | <p><b>Institutional and communal participation</b><br/><br/>Habermas<br/>Civic engagement, public interest, pub sphere</p>   | <p>2</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>Discussion of the mid-term exam results<br/><br/>Ppt Civic participation<br/><br/>Putnam Robert (ed.). Democracies in Flux. The Evolution of Social Capital in Contemporary Society, Oxford University press, 2002// chapter<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skocpol Theda. United States. From Membership to Advocacy, p. 103-136.</li> </ul> 2 questions from readings (Skocpol) to be submitted by 03.20 11:00 am (2<sup>nd</sup> group of students)</p>              |
| <p>7<br/>03.28</p> | <p><b>Political values; empirical measurements of participation</b><br/><br/>Kaase, Norris<br/>World Value Surveys<br/>Politics in entertainment society</p>   | <p>2</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>Ppt participation<br/><br/><a href="http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSContents.jsp">http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSContents.jsp</a><br/><br/>Welzel, Inglehart<br/><br/>Zoonen, Liesbet. (2003). <i>Politics in the entertainment society</i>. Paper for the ECPR-panel on 'The Entertainization of Political Information', Marburg, 18-21 September; 15 pages.<br/>2 questions from readings (Zoonen) to be submitted by 03.27 11:00 am (1<sup>st</sup> group of students)</p> |
| <p>8<br/>04.04</p> | <p><b>Global economy and globalizing factors</b><br/><br/>Sassen, Chomsky<br/><b>Globalization</b><br/><br/>Giddens, Castells, Ohmae<br/>MNC, IT</p>   | <p>2</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>Ppt globalization<br/><br/>Hutton Will, Giddens Anthony. Global Capitalism, The New Press, 2000// chapter:<br/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castells Manuel "Information Technology and Global Capitalism", p. 52-74;</li> </ul> 2 questions from readings (Castells) to be submitted by 04.03 11:00 am (2<sup>nd</sup> group of students)</p>  |

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| 9<br>04.11   | <b>MID TERM EXAM</b>  | 2  |    | <b>5(6) open ended questions</b>   |
| 10<br>05.02  | <b>Feedback on mid-term exam<br/>Non-radical globalization theses</b>                       | 2  | 2  | Ppt globalization<br>Additional (optional) reading: Heine J. Globalization, The HINDU, 2011.01.10<br>Video lecture by Heine (UNDP)   |
| 11.<br>05.09 | <b>EU, Europeanization and Europeanness</b>   | 2  | 2  | Guest lecturer (from the EC or EP)<br>Additional reading: Matonyte, Sumskas and Morkevicius: Europeanness of Lithuanian Political Elite: Europhilia, Russophobia and Neoliberalism// <i>Historical Social Research/ Historische Sozialforschung</i> , 2016, 41, 4 No 158, p. 150-172.  |
| 12.<br>05.16 | <b>Post-democracy, post-truth societies<br/>Wrap-up discussion and review of the course</b> | 0  | 4  | Additional reading: Harsin J: Regimes of Posttruth, Postpolitics, and Attention Economies, 2015, 7 p.<br>Collin Crouch<br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riTL_5Fs2fU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riTL_5Fs2fU</a><br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnTOiso08HM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnTOiso08HM</a> |
|              | Total   | 18 | 28 |  |

### Self-study and assessment

| Assignment  | Number of self-study hours | Percentage of the total grade |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Home readings (2 questions for discussions from 3 assigned readings, 24 hours before the seminar by 2 groups) | 52                         | 10 %                          |
| Discussion in the classroom (lectures and seminars)   | 15                         | 25 %                          |
| Mid-term exam   | 25                         | 35 %                          |
| Final examination   | 20                         | 30 %                          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>112</b>                 | <b>100 %</b>                  |

### Course assignments and evaluation

Assessment is built up of 4 different elements:

- **Home readings (10%)** covering topics to be discussed in class (2 questions for discussions from 6 readings, each student (from 2 sub-groups) submits 3 sets of questions 24 hours before the seminar) (1 missed or low quality home reading questions submission- 3%, 2- 6%, all 3- 10%)
- **Discussion in the classroom (25%)** covering reading materials.
- **Mid term exam (35%) (6 open ended questions from themes 1-7)**
- **Final examination (30%) (5 open ended questions from themes 8-12).**

It is imperative that students read all of the assigned readings, accomplish their regular homework (2 sub-groups submit 2 questions for discussions from each reading, sent to the lecturer via E-LEARNING SYSTEM 24 hours before the seminar, i.e. during the semester each student submits 6 discussion questions, 2 from 3 readings) as well as participate



in discussions during the seminars. Diligent completion of the homework assignments (readings) is the best way to learn.

The final exam of the course will be held in June.

The mid-term and final exams will consist of, respectively, 6 and 5 questions, from the material of the course. The questions should be answered in 9 -15 sentences during the written mid-term and final exam, without using any notes or reference materials. The (long) list of exam questions will be provided one week before the mid-term and exam.

If the final grade is negative, the student may retake the exam during the re-sit exam session. The retake will cover of all course material, and consist 65% of the final grade.

The home reading assignment (formulation of 2 discussion questions) cannot be late (reach the lecturer later than 24 hours before the seminar) and/or be retaken.

### Main issues controlled in the exam (sample questions)

1. Please, describe psychological and cultural conditions of the charismatic leadership.
2. Why and how "the other" (enemy) is important in charismatic appeals. Give historical examples (Smith).
3. How and why pluralists distinguish between actual and potential power?
4. Please, explain the role of *resources* in pluralist theories of competition for power.
5. What does it mean "monopoly of the coercive power"? Which normative dilemmas arise because of the coercive character of the state?
6. What does it mean "territorially bound people"? What problems *territoriality* of the state undergoes in contemporary world?
7. What does it mean "titular nation"? How does it relate to the principles of citizenship?
8. What is at the background of political authority in traditional and contemporary polities?
9. Please, provide and comment the definition of economic globalization (in the narrow sense).
10. What does the theory of global cities claim (Sassen)
11. What role the MNC (multinational corporations) play in relation to the State under conditions of globalization (in wider sense)?
12. Why under conditions of globalization *homogeneous global culture* does not develop?
13. Why and how the States resist globalization?
14. Please, comment Castells' claim "networks rather than countries or economic areas are the true architectures of the new global economy".

### MANDATORY READINGS:

#### Background textbooks:

1. Orum Anthony M. and John G. Dale (2008). *Political Sociology: Power and Participation in the Modern World*, Oxford university press.
2. Faulks Keith. *Political Sociology. A Critical Introduction*, Edinburgh university press, 1999.

#### Oligatory readings for seminar discussions (based on students' pre-prepared questions):

3. Michnik Adam. Letters from Freedom, Post-Cold War Realities and Perspectives, University of California Press, 1998// chapter "Towards a Civil Society: Hopes for Polish democracy, p. 96-113
4. Hutton Will, Giddens Anthony. *Global Capitalism*, The New Press, 2000// chapter:
  - a. Castells Manuel "Information Technology and Global Capitalism", p. 52-74;
5. Uslaner Eric. Varieties of Trust// *European Political Science*, 2003 summer, p. 43-48.
6. Putnam Robert (ed.). *Democracies in Flux. The Evolution of Social Capital in Contemporary Society*, Oxford University press, 2002// chapter
  - a. Skocpol Theda. United States. From Membership to Advocacy, p. 103-136.
7. Zoonen, Liesbet. (2003). *Politics in the entertainment society*. Paper for the ECPR-panel on 'The Entertainization of Political Information', Marburg, 18-21 September; 15 pages.
8. Smith Philip. Culture and Charisma: Outline of a Theory// *Acta Sociologica*, 2000, Vol 43, No 2, p. 101-112.

#### Additional readings for seminar discussions (no pre-prepared questions):

- Heine J: Globalization, *The HINDU*, 2011.01.10
- Matonyte, Sumskas and Morkevicius: Europeanness of Lithuanian Political Elite: Europhilia, Russophobia and Neoliberalism// *Historical Social Research/ Historische Sozialforschung*, 2016, 41, 4 No 158, p. 150-172.
- Harsin J: Regimes of Posttruth, Postpolitics, and Attention Economies, *Communication, Culture, Critique* 2015, 7 p.