

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

Course code	<i>POL108</i>
Course title	<i>Political Sociology</i>
Type of course	<i>Compulsory</i>
Study level	<i>Undergraduate</i>
Year of study	<i>2nd</i>
Semester	<i>4th semester</i>
ECTS	<i>6, 48 contact hours, 112 self-study hours, 2 hours of consultations</i>
Lecturer	<i>Prof. dr. Irminda Matonyte</i>
Study form	<i>Regular, daytime</i>
Prerequisites	-
Course language	<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 or institutions) centered *evidence based* empirical research. Ideas of classical and contemporary authors (Weber, Almond & Verba, Putnam, Giddens, Habermas, Norris, etc.) are introduced. The topics include the state and civil society, public opinion, political culture, trust, citizenship, civic participation, social movements, non-governmental organizations, political parties, elections and political behavior, globalization.

Since in spring 2019 in Lithuania three elections will take place (on March 3 – elections to municipal councils and mayors, on May 12 - President's elections and on May 26 – European Parliament elections), these electoral campaigns (organization, mobilization, communication) and their results will be given special attention. The students (in groups of 3) will be invited to prepare and present in the class the thematic presentations on selected aspects of the three elections.

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 is taught in English and will use a combination of methods, including lectures, seminars based on homework readings, thematic presentations and discussions in the classroom.

Efficient students' participation will be assured through active in-class discussions of the homework readings, group-tasks and thematic presentations.

The students are expected to do 4 reading assignments (15-25 p. long texts, exact dates of their discussion in the classroom is indicated in the course syllabus) as the basis for regular and focused participation in the seminar discussions. Each student has to formulate 2 discussion questions for the seminar, based on the assigned reading, and to send these questions to the lecturer 25 hours PRIOR to the seminar via e-learning system (i.e. since Political sociology 2019 lectures take place on Wednesdays, the questions are to be sent by Tuesday morning, 11 a.m.).

Alongside each student will have to prepare (in a group of 3) one thematic presentation on a) municipal elections; b) European Parliament elections or c) Lithuanian President's elections. Which elections and which topic will be covered in a group presentation, will be agreed by the students' group and the professor, case-by-case (by during the second week of the course, February 13). In principle, all members of the same groups will get the same grade for their presentation.

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

Learning outcomes

Subject learning outcomes (SLO)	Study methods	Assessment methods
SLO1. Have good knowledge about main issues and topics in political sociology.	Lectures, seminars, homework readings, in class presentations	Midterm and final exam, group presentations, in-class discussions
SLO2. Be able to understand basic principles of the exercise of power, of the state relations with civil society; individual	Lectures, seminars, homework (readings)	Midterm and final exam, homework readings, group presentations, in class discussions

and group interactions in the political realm.		
SLO3. Achieve practical skills of analysis of social phenomena in their political settings.	Seminars, group presentations	Midterm and final exam, group presentations, in class discussion
SLO4. Acquire habits of socio-political information finding, sorting and critical examining.	Seminars, group presentations	Group presentations, in class discussion
SLO5. Foster skills of public discussions.	Seminars, group presentations	Group presentations, in class discussion

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 Wednesday from 4:00 till 5:30 p.m. (upon appointment via irmmat@ism.it)

Cheating prevention

The teaching and testing methods take into account the purpose of the maximization of creative-interpretative approach and minimization of cheating opportunities. The course 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 minus points on "contribution to the in-class discussions", to zero grade given for the particular assignment over the failure of the course up to disciplinary measures for severe cases.

Course content

Week	Topic	Contact Hours		Assignments
		Lecture	Seminar	
1	Introduction of the course Explanation of the course assignments	4		What is political sociology? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUE0SPkKXno https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzezEaOT7aw "Varieties of democracy" https://www.v-dem.net/en/about/ Democracy for All? V-Dem Annual Democracy Report 2018 (pdf)
2	What is politics? Aristotle, Lasswell, Easton What is Public opinion, how and why to study it	2	2	Ppt Public opinion Radar V-dem discussion Forming groups, choosing topics for the "electoral presentations"
3	State, power, authority, legitimacy Hegel, Weber: coercion, authority, legitimacy Political regimes, democratization, nation Modern State, titular nation, stateless communities	2	2	Ppt State, legitimacy, authority... V-dem discussion <i>democratization</i> (trends in 2017)
4	Social Movements and Non-governmental organizations Social movements by their principal opponent (threat), type, key issues, organization, tactics, orientation to international sphere, approach to democracy and citizenship, main social base	2	2	Ppt Social movements 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; 2 questions from readings (Michnik) to be submitted by 02.26 11:00 am

5	Civil society as social laboratories the multi-faceted operation of power: highlighted the importance of discourses of power can the state ever be truly inclusive	2	2	Ppt Social movements 3-4 presentations about municipal elections in Lithuania (with "reviewers" assigned randomly)
6	Civic participation Pateman, Arendt, Putnam, Habermas: Political culture, social capital, trust, civic engagement, public interest, public sphere			Ppt civic participation V-dem discussion <i>discursive democracy</i> (trends in 2017)
7	Midterm exam		2	3 (4) open ended questions
8	Political participation; empirical measurements of participation Kaase, Norris	2	2	Feed-back on the mid-term exam (results) Ppt Political participation Norris Pippa (2000). A Virtuous circle. Political communications in post-industrial societies, Cambridge university press, chapter "Stays home? Political Mobilization", p. 255-278; 2 questions from readings (Norris) to be submitted by 04.02 11:00 am Additional (optional) reading: Faulks Keith. Chapter 8 Political participation in <i>Political Sociology. A Critical Introduction</i> , Edinburgh university press, 1999, p. 143-162. (no prior questions)
9	Political values World Value Surveys Politics in entertainment society Welzel, Inglehart	2	2	Ppt participation http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSCContents.jsp 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. 2 questions from readings (Zoonen) to be submitted by 04.16 11:00 am
10	Global economy and globalizing factors Sassen, Chomsky Globalization Giddens, Castells, Ohmae MNC, IT	2	2	Ppt globalization 4-5 presentations about European Parliament elections (with "reviewers" assigned randomly)
11	Non-radical globalization theses. Public diplomacy	2	2	Ppt globalization Francis L.F. Lee, Chin-Chuan Lee, Mike Z. Yao, Tsan-Kuo Chang, Fen Jennifer Lin, and Chris Fei Shen (2013) [Chinese] attitudes towards globalization// <i>Communication, Public Opinion, and Globalization in Urban China</i> , Routledge, p. 125-151; 2 questions from readings (China) to be submitted by 05.07 11:00 am Additional (optional) reading: Heine J. Globalization, The HINDU, 2011.01.10, debate "Bright and Dark side of globalization"

12.	Post-democracy Wrap-up discussion and review of the course	2	2	<p>2-3 presentations about Lithuanian President's elections (with "reviewers" assigned randomly)</p> <p>In class-discussion on engaged citizens https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1931/addams/biographical/ https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2010/xiaobo/biographical/ https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2003/ebadi/biographical/ https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1983/walesa/facts/ https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1975/sakharov/ https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1964/king/biographical/ https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1952/schweitzer/biographical/ https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1935/ossietzky/biographical/ https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1963/red-cross/facts/ </p> <p>Collin Crouch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiTL_5Fs2fU https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnTOiso08HM </p>
	Total	24	22	

Self-study and assessment

Assignment	Number of self-study hours	Percentage of the total grade
Home readings (2 questions for discussions from 4 assigned readings, 24 hours before the seminar)	22	10 %
Discussion in the classroom (lectures and seminars)	15	10 %
Group presentations on elections	30	35 %
Mid-term exam	25	25 %
Final examination	20	20 %
Total	112	100 %

Course assignments and evaluation

Assessment is built up of 5 different elements:

- **Home readings (10%)** covering topics to be discussed in class (2 questions for discussions from 4 readings, each student submits 4 sets of questions 24 hours before the seminar) (1 missed or low quality home reading questions submission- 3%, 2- 5%, 3- 7% and 4 – 10%).
- **Discussion in the classroom (10%)** covers discussion of the reading materials, contribution of insights during the lectures and engagement in in-class tasks.
- **Group presentations on elections (35 %) – 8 (10) groups** will be formed (3 students in each group) and will be randomly assigned which elections (municipal, EP or LT President's) they will cover (along the selected aspect). Based on their empirical observations and research material each group will make an in-class presentation (12 minutes long, up to 12 ppt slides) and lead a thematic discussion (5 minutes of discussion). Each member of the same group, as a rule, will get the same grade. Assessment criteria of the group presentation:
 - coherence of the presentation (concepts used and ideas presented are well-integrated);
 - clarity of presented material and clarity of expressed ideas;
 - creativity of interpretation and arguments;
 - quality of interaction / discussion with the audience (minimum 1 round of exchange of ideas with the audience, maximum 3 are required/ allowed);
 - respect for technical and disciplinary norms (time, format of slides, smoothness of the presentation...)
- **Mid-term exam (25%) (3/4 open ended questions from themes 1-6).**
- **Final examination (20%) (3/4 open ended questions from themes 8-12).**

It is imperative that students read all of the assigned readings, accomplish their regular homework (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 8 discussion questions, 2 from each of 4 readings), participate in discussions during the seminars and produce a group presentation of elections.

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

The mid-term and final exams will consist of 3/4 questions from the material of the course. The questions should be answered in 8-12 sentences during the written mid-term and final exam, without using any notes or reference materials. 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 25 hours before the seminar) and/or be retaken.

Issues controlled in the mid-term and final exam (sample questions)

1. Please, explain the role of *resources* in competition for power (pluralist theories).

2. What does it mean “monopoly of the coercive power”? Which normative dilemmas arise because of the coercive character of the state?
3. What does it mean “titular nation”? How does it relate to the principles of citizenship?
4. What is at the background of political authority in traditional and contemporary polities?
5. Please, provide and comment the definition of economic globalization (in the narrow sense).
6. Why and how the States resist globalization?

MANDATORY READINGS:

Background textbooks:

Brincker Benedikte, Mark Blach-rsten, Anette Borchorst, Susana Borrás, Manni Crone, Jrgen Goul Andersen (2015) Introduction to Political Sociology, Copenhagen Business School.

Orum Anthony M. and John G. Dale (2008). *Political Sociology: Power and Participation in the Modern World*, Oxford university press, p. 1-4; 38-46; 100-116 and 216-226 (scanned material uploaded on e-learning platform).

Faulks Keith (1999). *Political Sociology. A Critical Introduction*, Edinburgh university press, in particular Chapter 8 Political participation, p. 143-162 (scanned material uploaded on e-learning platform).

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

1. Michnik Adam (1998). Letters from Freedom, Post-Cold War Realities and Perspectives, University of California Press, chapter “Towards a Civil Society: Hopes for Polish democracy, p. 96-113.
2. Norris Pippa (2000). A Virtuous circle. Political communications in post-industrial societies, Cambridge university press, chapter “Stays home? Political Mobilization”, p. 255-278.
3. Zoonen Liesbet (2003). *Politics in the entertainment society*, paper at the ECPR-panel on The Entertainization of Political Information, Marburg, 15 p.
4. Lee Francis L.F., Chin-Chuan Lee, Mike Z. Yao, Tsan-Kuo Chang, Fen Jennifer Lin, and Chris Fei Shen (2013) chapter [Chinese] attitudes towards globalization// *Communication, Public Opinion, and Globalization in Urban China*, Routledge, p. 125-151.

Background materials for the in-class discussions are taken from V-Dem project. “Varieties of democracy”
<https://www.v-dem.net/en/about/>

REPORT Democracy for All? V-Dem Annual Democracy Report 2018 (pdf uploaded on the e-learning platform of the course)