

SUBJECT: **Contemporary American Democracy and Politics**

HOURS: 30

ECTS: 2

Name/title of the author:	
Course Description:	<p>The course contains the comprehensive explanation of the American political system and American democracy. It is supposed to develop skills that enable analysing contemporary American democracy and the role of the USA in an international politics. Its aim is also to prepare students to understand properly the differences between American and European politics as well as between different political regimes.</p>
Learning Outcomes (skills and knowledge):	<p>Having finished the course the students will have a working knowledge of the American political system as well as major policy issues in contemporary American politics</p> <p>The acquired knowledge will enable the student to formulate his/her own opinions on the way the American political system operates as well as make judgements based on different sources of information.</p>
Course Content:	<p>The course contains the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction - specifications of the course, assessment criteria, requirements2. Modern democracy3. An overview of the American constitutional framework4. The civil liberties and civil rights5. The legislative – the United States Congress6. The executive – the President of the United States of America7. The federal judicial system (an overview)8. American party system: political parties + interest groups9. The differences between American and European politics and values10. USA – „the lonely superpower“?11. The presidential regime vs. the parliamentary regime vs. the semi-presidential regime vs. the rule of convent system
Methods of Instruction:	<p>Lecture with the use of other methods such as discussion, presentation and group project, etc.</p>
Assessment policy (examination):	<p>Written exam consisting of single-choice test and short descriptive questions.</p>
References:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ginsberg Benjamin and others, <i>We the People</i>, 10th essentials edition2. Kernell Samuel, Jacobson Gary C., Kousser Thad, <i>The Logic of American Politics</i>, 7th edition3. Kernell Samuel, <i>Principles and Practise of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings</i>, 6th edition4. Barber Benjamin, <i>Strong democracy</i>5. Huntington Samuel, <i>America in the World</i>6. Huntington Samuel, <i>The Lonely Superpower</i>7. US Constitution