

SUBJECT: **Political Science**

HOURS: 8

ECTS:

Name/title of the author:	
Course Description:	<p>As one of the social science disciplines the political science concerns the study of the state, public power, government and many other aspects of politics. It shows both the theory and practice of politics as well as describes political systems and political behavior. Political science intersects with many other fields including law, sociology, economics, public administration, etc.</p> <p>The course contains the description of basic democratic political regimes and is supposed to give essential knowledge to students about the different systems of relations between the legislative and the executive, that is the relationship between the two decision-making structures: democratically elected representative parliament (legislature) and the government (the executive).</p>
Learning Outcomes (skills and knowledge):	<p>Having finished the course the students will gain the ability to formulate independent opinions, judgments and analyses of modern political systems.</p> <p>The acquired knowledge will enable the understanding of the surrounding socio-political reality as well as the interpretation of phenomena that take place in selected political systems and international relations.</p>
Course Content:	<p>The course contains the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction to political science – theoretical and methodological assumptions, functions, key definitions, the subject-matter2. Democratic regimes – the theories and essential characteristics of democracy, policy and decision making, types and models of democracy, the condition of modern democracy, strengths and weaknesses of democracy, lessons from the past and signposts to the future3. The parliamentary regime – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland4. The presidential regime – United States of America5. The semi-presidential regime – Fifth Republic of France6. The rule of convent regime – Swiss Confederation
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. Additional points for presentations.</p>
References:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Forman F.N., Baldwin N.D.J., <i>Mastering British politics</i>, Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire-New York 2007.2. Heywood A., <i>Politics</i>, Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire-New York 2002.3. Heywood A., <i>Political Theory. An introduction</i>, Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire-New York 2004.4. Norton P. (ed.), <i>Legislatures</i>, Oxford University Press, Oxford 1990.5. Norton P., <i>Parliament in British politics</i>, Palgrave Macmillan, Hampshire-New York 2005.6. Rogers R., Walters R., <i>How Parliament Works</i>, Sixth edition, Pearson Longman, Harlow 2006.