

Course descriptions

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-010/22	Course title: Comparative Political Science
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 / 2 per level/semester: 28 / 28 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 7	
Recommended semester: 4., 16.	
Educational level: II.	
Prerequisites:	
Antirequisites: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-010/15	
Course requirements: Min. 60% of the total rating Rating scale: A: 100% - 92% B: 91% - 84% C: 83% - 76% D: 75% - 68% E: 67% - 60% FX: 59% - 0% The rating consists of: Group presentations from the read literature: 30% Test: 40% Active participation in discussions: 30% Group presentations: For each seminar, each group should read two mandatory readings. There are three compulsory readings for each seminar, each group reads the first and one of the remaining two readings based on the teacher's decision. Students are expected to provide a concise reading summary focusing on key arguments. During the discussion, presenting students are expected to defend the authors' arguments and try to explain how they understood the reading. Active participation: Students are expected to participate in seminars and actively participate in the discussion. Due to the fact that not everyone is equally well able to discuss in person at the seminar, there is an opportunity to send questions and comments before the seminar, but also after the seminar to the teacher. Written test in the final week: Written answers to open-ended questions, formulated on the basis of the topics covered in the course. The student is obliged to attend lectures as stated in the syllabi. The lecturer may justify the absence if it is caused by incapacity for work or other obstacles on the part of the student. In this case, the teacher can request the fulfillment of a substitute task, e.g. short additional seminar work, which will serve as a substitute for absence.	

Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 100/0					
Learning outcomes: The course will start with introductory seminars where the students will learn about concepts necessary for the analysis of democratic institutions and then proceed from citizens' interests through political parties and elections to parliaments (legislatures) and governments (executives), and the relationships between them. The course will then proceed to other institutions ensuring separation of powers, mainly focusing on the role of constitutional courts as 'negative legislators' but addressing vertical separation of powers – i.e. territorial organization of states – as well. In the final part of the course, students will learn about mechanisms of citizen control over political institutions, those organized – such as NGOs and social movements, to those that ensure more direct involvement of citizens in the political process, e.g. referenda or deliberative tools.					
Class syllabus: Introduction to the course: topics, requirements, rules and discussion Representative democracy in the 21st century. Concepts for the study of political institutions. Challenges for democracy. Fundamentals of comparative research. Quality of governance. Representation of interest groups, political parties and party systems Elections and electoral systems Division of power I. Executive-legislative relations Division of power II. Horizontal and vertical division of responsibilities Ensuring the accountability of public officials Direct democracy and new tools for democratic participation					
Recommended literature: ALONSO, Sonja, MERKEL, Wolfgang a John KEANE. The Future of Representative Democracy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-521-17703-0 DELLA PORTA, Donatella a Mario DIANI. Social movements an introduction. Malden: Blackwell, 2006. ISBN: 978-1-4051-0282-7 MORAN, Michael, REIN, Martin a Robert GOODIN. The Oxford handbook of public policy. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-19-926928-0 ROSENFELD, Michael a András SAJÓ. The Oxford handbook of comparative constitutional law. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0-19-957861-0 SCHEDLER, Andreas, DIAMOND, Larry a Marc F. PLATTNER. The self-restraining state power and accountability in new democracies. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1999. ISBN: 978-1-55587-774-3					
Languages necessary to complete the course: Slovak, English					
Notes:					
Past grade distribution Total number of evaluated students: 209					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
17,7	26,32	25,36	15,31	14,83	0,48
Lecturers: M. A. Samuel Spáč, PhD., doc. Mgr. Erik Láštík, PhD.					
Last change: 04.04.2022					
Approved by:					

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-005/18	Course title: EU Policies
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 / 2 per level/semester: 28 / 28 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 7	
Recommended semester: 4., 16.	
Educational level: II.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: obtain min. 60% of the total assessment Grading scale: A: 100% - 92% B: 91% - 84% C: 83% - 76% D: 75% - 68% E: 67% - 60% FX: 59% - 0% Preliminary written test - 20% of evaluation. The test will consist of closed and open questions from the topics covered in the course and will take place online on the Moodle platform. Additional information will be provided during seminars. Presentation of the structure of the seminar work - 20% of the evaluation. During the seminar, students will present the research design and structure of their seminar work (see below). During the first meeting, students will receive a list of questions from which to choose the topic of their seminar work. Presentation length max. 20 minutes, the rules for the presentation apply the same as for the seminar paper (however, 5 pieces of literature are enough). Critique of the structure of another student's seminar work - 10% of the evaluation. Students' role will be to provide critical feedback on the presentation. Students choose the topic they want to give feedback during the first meeting, as well as choose their topic of the seminar paper (and thus also the presentation). Seminar work - 30% of evaluation. The student's task will be to answer the submitted question in the range of 1500 words (+ - 10%) - the text must be dense and must support the answer to the research question. The seminar work must also include a critical evaluation of the literature in the analysis of the studied problem. In the analysis, pay attention to the definition of concepts, the logic of the concepts used. It is necessary to use academic literature, at least 15 academic books / scientific articles (from international journals), for which you can also use information about the current problem from relevant sources where it is current (print media, official newspaper websites, reports from research centers and Come.). Under no circumstances use blogs or irrelevant websites (eg	

referaty.sk, etc.) - in case of ambiguity, contact the teacher, seminar work containing such resources will be evaluated 0%

Final written exam (in the examination period) - 20% of evaluation. The exam will take place on the Moodle platform, students will have the task to answer two from three assigned question within one page (2 x 400 words)

The obligations of students (participation, evaluation, repetition) in the course are in accordance with the current Study Regulations of Comenius University, no. 5/2014 and the Study Regulations of Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Studies of the Faculty of Arts

Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 80/20

Learning outcomes:

This course aims to provide students with knowledge of selected EU policies and analytical tools to explain the nature and problems of the EU's main policy activities. After completing the course, students will be able to:

Demonstrate knowledge of the functioning of the EU and its main political and legislative outcomes.

Apply conceptual tools to analyze EU policies.

Explain the relationship between the EU and Member States in different areas of public policy

Develop one's own cognitive and communication skills through independent study and seminar debates.

Class syllabus:

Theorizing about the EU and its policies

EU single market

Economic and Monetary Union

Common agricultural policy

Regional and social policy

Justice and Home Affairs

Energy policy

EU enlargement

EU environmental policy

EU external relations

EU internal security

EU development policy

Recommended literature:

BUONNANO, Laurie a Neil NUGENT. Policies and policy processes of the European Union.

Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-4039-1514-6

CINI, Michelle a Nieves Perez-Solorzano BORRAGAN (eds). European Union Politics. Oxford:

Oxford University Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-19-969475-4

MIŠÍK, Matúš. External Energy Security in the European Union. Small Member States

'Perspective. Abingdon: Routledge 2019. ISBN: 978-1-351-10653-5

WALLACE, Helen, Mark A. POLLACK a Alisdair YOUNG (eds.). Policy-Making in the

European Union. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-19-968967-5

Languages necessary to complete the course:

slovak, english

Notes:

Past grade distribution					
Total number of evaluated students: 224					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
9,82	30,36	34,38	13,84	8,93	2,68
Lecturers: doc. Mgr. Matúš Mišík, PhD., Mgr. Michaela Hrabušajová					
Last change: 04.04.2022					
Approved by:					

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-038/17	Course title: Economic Policies of the European Union
Educational activities: Type of activities: seminar Number of hours: per week: 3 per level/semester: 42 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 5	
Recommended semester: 2., 4., 16.	
Educational level: II.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: 10 % -Active participation 90 % -Final written exam (with 2 additional chances –oral exams –for those who failed) Evaluation: A: 100% - 92% B: 91% - 84% C: 83% - 76% D: 75% - 68% E: 67% - 60% FX: 59% - 0% The final exam mostly contains of multiple choice questions (4 choices with only one correct answer) and True/False questions (the given statements could be true or false) but there are some essay questions (where students should write in the correct answers) at the end as well. The questions address only those issues which were explained in the lectures or discussed during the seminars. Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 10/90	
Learning outcomes: The aim of the course is to give a comprehensive picture on the development, current state, recent problems and future perspectives of the economic integration in the European Union. Through analyzing the historic development students are going to be better prepared to understand the current design of various policies and to evaluate the costsand benefits of the integration process. The appliedcomparative perspective helps to examine the role of the European Union and its member states in the globalized world economy as well as to address the significant differences between the members. The general, holistic approach applied to various areas helps to frame the environment where EU policies work. At the end, the students shall be able to distinguish the institutions of the Union from other global, regional and national institutions and understand their specific nature in a historic context.	
Class syllabus: What we already know –Ashort historic overview of the integration	

The single market and the common commercial policy
 The Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) –monetary policy I.
 The Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) –monetary policy II.
 The Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) –monetary policy III.
 The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
 Competition policy in the EU
 The common regional and transport policy
 Employment and social policy in the EU
 Visa, asylum and migration policy
 Perfect storm over Europe? Multiply, overlapping and mutually reinforcing crises of the European Union
 Current issues and final remarks –the future of the integration project

Recommended literature:

BALDWIN, Richard a Charles WYPLOSZ, Charles. The Economics of European Integration. 4th Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill Education 2012. ISBN: 978-007713172-2
 CINI, Michelle a Nieves Pérez-Solórzano BORRAGÁN. European Union politics 6th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019. ISBN: 978-0-19-880653-0.
 DE GRAUWE, Paul. Economics of monetary union. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0-19-880522-9
 WALLACE, Helen, POLLACK, Mark a Alasdair R. YOUNG. Policy-making in the European Union 7th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-19-968967-5.

Languages necessary to complete the course:
english

Notes:

Past grade distribution

Total number of evaluated students: 117

A	B	C	D	E	FX
6,84	19,66	23,08	23,08	22,22	5,13

Lecturers: Mgr. Zsolt Gál, PhD.

Last change: 31.03.2022

Approved by:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-135/22	Course title: From socialism to EU membership - Economic transformation in Slovakia
Educational activities: Type of activities: seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 per level/semester: 28 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 3	
Recommended semester: 1., 3., 5., 15.	
Educational level: I., II.	
Prerequisites:	
Antirequisites: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-135/20	
Course requirements: 10 % -Active participation 40 % -Presentation (power point)and handout (notes) 50 % -Research paper Presentation–each student should give one short (15-20 minutes with additional 5-10 minutes discussion) presentationduring the course. The students (in a power point presentation) should try to (interestingly) explain the main questions, findings, arguments and conclusions of a chosen issue while focusing on the most important questions and keeping the time limit. A few (3-5) page handout (written summary of the presentation) is required. Max. 20 points could be given for each presentation and another 10 for the quality of power point presentationand the handout. Handout (notes)–summary notes are required from each student. The notes should be prepared according to the course schedule and given (in a printed form) to the lecturer and shared with other students. They should be informative as much as possible to give an idea to other students about the problem as well as with references on useful sources. Max. 10 points could be given for each summary. Research paper–8 to 12 page paper (Times New Roman, 1.5 times spacing, counted without notes, references, tables and figures) is required on a chosen topic agreed by the instructor. Try to avoid simple descriptions and focuson sources of problems,factors influencing the development,comparisons of countries, reforms, institutions etc. Asking questions, trying to answer them, arguing and drawing down conclusions is what is needed instead of just describing a particular event, some policies orinstitutions (it does not mean a good description is not welcomed). The academic style of writing is highly encouraged and appreciated, simplifications and journalist style should be avoided as much as possible. Max. 50 points couldbe given for the seminar paper. Evaluation: A: 100% - 92% B: 91% - 84% C: 83% - 76%	

D: 75% - 68% E: 67% - 60% FX: 59% - 0% Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 50/50
<p>Learning outcomes:</p> <p>The aim is to give a general overview of the process of economic transformation of CEE countries (with special accent on Slovakia) from the socialist centrally-planned economies to free market economies integrated to the European Union. The students shall be able to examine and understand the characteristics, nature and structure of economic systems (socialism and capitalism) and the revolutionary and unprecedented transformation processes. Different policy choices, strategies and scope of transition and trajectories of CEE countries (economic development, achievements and failures) will be analysed in detail and using a comparative perspective. We will look at the current state of CEE countries as well: what kind of socio-economic models, capitalisms were created, which countries were more and which less successful and what are the major challenges today. By the end of the course, the students shall be able to understand, evaluate and analyse the basic processes of economic transformation in CEE countries after the fall of the iron curtain. This gives them a valuable knowledge and expertise usable in both the public and private sectors and the academic world as well.</p>
<p>Class syllabus:</p> <p>Basic paradigms: socialism, capitalism, welfare state, mixed economy Causes of the collapse of Communism and its economic heritage, need for change The first round of reforms (privatization, liberalization etc.) Evaluating the success of reforms: shock therapy or gradualism, comprehensive big bang vs. half or no reforms The second round of reforms: flat tax revolution, partial pension privatization etc. The EU integration and its effects Where are we now? The macroeconomic perspective Where are we now? The people's perspective, the social effects of transformation processes Transformation of different sectors of economy (banking, industry, energy etc.) Current challenges – reverse processes and the crisis of democracy and market economy in CEE</p>
<p>Recommended literature:</p> <p>APPEL, Hilary a Michael ORENSTEIN. From Triumph to Crisis: Neoliberal Economic Reform in Postcommunist Countries. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-108-42229-1</p> <p>ÅSLUND, Anders, a Simeon DJANKOV. The great rebirth. Lessons from the victory of capitalism over communism. Washington DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-88132-697-0</p> <p>ÅSLUND, Anders. How Capitalism Was Built: The Transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, 2nd edition. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-107-62818-2</p> <p>BALCZEROWICZ, Leszek. Socialism, Capitalism, Transformation. Budapest: CEU Press, 1995. ISBN: 1-85866-026-2</p> <p>BOKROS Lajos. Accidental occidental. Economics and culture of transition in Mitteleuropa, the Baltic and the Balkan area. Budapest: Central European University Press, 2013. ISBN: 978-615-5225-24-6</p>
<p>Languages necessary to complete the course:</p> <p>english</p>

Notes:					
Past grade distribution					
Total number of evaluated students: 40					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
42,5	27,5	20,0	2,5	0,0	7,5
Lecturers: Mgr. Zsolt Gál, PhD.					
Last change: 31.03.2022					
Approved by:					

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-011/18	Course title: Government and Politics in the USA
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 / 1 per level/semester: 28 / 14 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 7	
Recommended semester: 2., 16.	
Educational level: II.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: - active participation during lectures and seminars, chapter from the textbook plus additional materials - short online exams from mandatory reading- 50% of final grade. From week 3 (federalism) till the end of the semester. There will be an online test from mandatory reading (chapter from the textbook) available (10 questions). For final grade five (5) best results will count. Tests will be available every week from Tuesday to Monday (10 a.m.) - final online exam- 50% of final grade, during exam period. The test is composed from multiple-choice questions, open ended questions and two (2) essay questions. Grading scale: A: 100% - 92% B: 91% - 84% C: 83% - 76% D: 75% - 68% E: 67% - 60% FX: 59% - 0% Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 50/50	
Learning outcomes:	
Class syllabus: The Constitution Federalism Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Public Opinion, Political Socialization, and the Media Interest Groups and Political Parties Campaigns and Elections Congress The President and The Executive Branch The Courts Domestic and Economic Policy	

Foreign Policy					
Recommended literature: BIANCO, William a David CANON. American politics today. New York: W. W. Norton, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-393-97883-4 SCHMIDT, Steffen W., SHELLEY, Mack C., BARDES, Barbara. American Government and Politics Today, 2018–2019 Brief Edition, 2017 CENGAGE, ISBN 0-314-96078-3 VALELLY, Richard, METTLER, Suzanne, LIEBERMAN, Robert. The Oxford handbook of American political development. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016, ISBN 978-0-19-969791-5 VILE, M.J.. Politics in the USA. New York: Routledge, 2007, ISBN 978-0-415-41418-0 Additional literature and resources will be available for specific lectures via Moodle and MS Teams.					
Languages necessary to complete the course: English					
Notes:					
Past grade distribution Total number of evaluated students: 190					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
67,89	18,42	10,0	1,05	1,58	1,05
Lecturers: doc. Mgr. Erik Láštík, PhD.					
Last change: 13.02.2023					
Approved by:					

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-001/22	Course title: International Relations
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 / 2 per level/semester: 28 / 28 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 7	
Recommended semester: 2., 16.	
Educational level: II.	
Prerequisites:	
Antirequisites: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-001/15	
Course requirements: 1) Short weekly memos based on course readings. Each of the memos should be about half a page to one page long, should focus on specific aspects of interest in the readings and formulate a question for class discussion. 40% of the grade 2) Active participation in class discussions. Get involved in debates; raise questions; bring in own observations and views based on readings: 20% of the grade 3) Research paper: Topic assigned in session 6; 2500 words plus references; Suggested structure: Introduction(200 words), Theory and methods(1000 words), Empirical section(1000 words), Conclusion(300 words); to be submitted by e-mail to the instructor during exams period – deadline for submission of papers will be specified in class: 40% of the grade Hodnotiaca stupnica: A: 100% - 92% B: 91% - 84% C: 83% - 76% D: 75% - 68% E: 67% - 60% FX: 59% - 0% Na udelenie hodnotenie a získanie kreditu je potrebné získanie min. 60% celkového hodnotenia Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 60/40	
Learning outcomes: Students will gain theoretical and practice-oriented knowledge on key aspects of international relations and international security. They will learn about the main state and non-state actors in the global environment and they will develop analytical skills focusing on their actorness, structures of global politics and changes processes with respect to current globalization trends.	
Class syllabus: Modern society of sovereign states A neo-realist perspective Securitization and Security Communities	

Actors, identities in international relations Dynamics of Post-Westphalian Order					
Recommended literature: BUZAN, B., WVER, O. a DE WILDE, J. Security: A new framework for analysis. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 1998. ISBN 978-1555877842 ADLER, E. and BARNETT, M. Security Communities. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. BÁTORA, J. and HYNEK, N. Fringe Players and the Diplomatic Order: Towards a New Heteronomy. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2014. ISBN 978-1-349-34916-6 MARCH, J.G. and OLSEN, J.P. The Institutional Dynamics of International Political Orders In International Organization 1998, Vol. 52, pp. 943-969, https://doi.org/10.1162/002081898550699 PUTNAM, Robert. Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games, In: International Organization 1988, Vol.42, pp. 427-460, http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.25335.96166					
Languages necessary to complete the course: english					
Notes:					
Past grade distribution Total number of evaluated students: 277					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
32,49	38,99	16,61	6,5	3,97	1,44
Lecturers: prof. M. Phil. Jozef Bátora, PhD.					
Last change: 16.02.2022					
Approved by:					

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-boPO-012/15	Course title: Introduction into Comparative Political Science 2
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 / 1 per level/semester: 28 / 14 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 7	
Recommended semester: 3., 15.	
Educational level: I.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: written tests - 40% of the total assessment, during the semester the student can take any number of continuous tests within the elearning system (limit only 1 attempt per week), the subject of which will be preparation for a given week. The tests take the form of multiple-choice questions with one correct answer. The 4 best results in the semester (max 4x10%) are included in the overall evaluation. The written test opens every Wednesday around lunch and can be taken until Monday, 12:00. The tests are part of the preliminary evaluation. final written test - 60% of the total assessment, the test will take place during the examination period, will consist of a combination of multiple-choice questions, open-ended questions and 2 short essays on a selected topic Grading scale: A: 100% - 92% B: 91% - 84% C: 83% - 76% D: 75% - 68% E: 67% - 60% FX: 59% - 0% active participation in the course, participation in the course is mandatory in accordance with the study regulations. Excessive absences on the course without justification, which will be considered as relevant, mean an FX rating. Each student who attends a class is expected to study materials that are marked as preparation for a particular week. Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 40/60	
Learning outcomes: The course builds on the Introduction to Comparative Political Science 1. In the course, students will deepen their knowledge of comparison as a basic method of analysis in political science. Students will gain the ability to distinguish the relevant components of political regimes at the level of structures, actors and political culture. Graduates will learn to apply this knowledge in the analysis of specific political regimes in selected countries and regions. The course also focuses	

on the development of other individual skills, such as critical thinking, teamwork, analytical and presentation skills.

Class syllabus:

Multi-level governance
Political culture
Political behavior
Social movements
Political elites
Interest groups
Political communication
Electoral behavior
Social policy
Defense policy

Recommended literature:

CARAMANI, Daniele. Comparative Politics, 3rd edition, Oxford University Press, 2014, ISBN 978-0-19-966599-0
CLARK, Roberts, GOLDER, Matt, NADENICHEK, Sonna. Principles of comparative politics. Los Angeles: SAGE, 2013, ISBN 978-1-60871-679-1
LANE, Jan.E. Comparative Politics. London: Routledge, 2008. ISBN 0-415-43206-5
Additional literature is part of the preparation for specific course topics and will be available within Moodle and MS Teams together with presentations from lectures.

Languages necessary to complete the course:

slovak, english

Notes:

Past grade distribution

Total number of evaluated students: 231

A	B	C	D	E	FX
52,81	20,78	11,26	7,36	6,06	1,73

Lecturers: doc. Mgr. Erik Láštic, PhD.

Last change: 04.04.2022

Approved by:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-boPO-014/15	Course title: Introduction into European Integration
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 / 1 per level/semester: 28 / 14 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 7	
Recommended semester: 5., 15.	
Educational level: I.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: 1. Analytical memos: For every class session, you will be expected to read the assigned readings and write an analytical memo / reflection / literature review 400-600 words long. The purpose is not to summarize the readings. A useful analytical memo will identify key issues that are important for understanding the topic discussed in class in that week, i.e. interesting or innovative aspects; things that catch your attention; issues you find problematic and worthy of critical assessment – in one or more of the assigned texts. As we will have class discussions based on the memos, please formulate a question for class-discussion and be ready to present the key ideas from your memo to the class. 40% 2. Active participation in class discussions: students are expected to get involved in debates, raise issues for discussion, react to comments and questions: 20% 3. Final paper: The research paper is based on rigorous academic research on a topic assigned in session 5. The assigned topic will be broadly formulated and there will be space for narrowing it down to suit your specific interests. The paper is to be 2000 words long (excluding literature and references). Typically, it will be structured as academic papers usually are: introduction outlining the research question, relevance and approach; theory / literature review and methodology section; empirical section; conclusion; references. Harvard style of referencing is fine. Excellent papers will include both a strong theory section and a strong empirical section. I will also accept theoretical / conceptual papers without extensive empirical sections but empirical illustrations of theoretical arguments are welcome. Final papers are to be submitted by e-mail to the instructor by January 5, 2023: 40% A: 100% - 92% B: 91% - 84% C: 83% - 76% D: 75% - 68% E: 67% - 60% FX: 59% - 0% Min. 60%. Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 60/40	

Learning outcomes: The course reviews some of the recent academic contributions analyzing the emerging nature of the enlarged European Union. Students will deepen their understanding of the changing character of political governance in the EU. They will learn about transformations of statehood in Europe in the context of European integration processes. They will also learn to apply analytical concepts for analyzing developments of the EU as a political entity.					
Class syllabus: What is Europeanization? Shaping the EU as a political entity Concepts of neo-medievalism and modern statehood in EU analyzes The EU as a system of differentiated integration Democratic governance in the EU EU defense EU enlargement EU external governance					
Recommended literature: Olsen, Johan P. (2002): "The Many Faces of Europeanization" Journal of Common Market Studies, 40 (5): 921-52 Bartolini, Stefano (2006): "A Comparative Political Approach to the EU Formation." Working Paper 04-2006, Oslo: ARENA WIENER, Antje, DIEZ, Thomas. European Integration Theory. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2004. ISBN 0-19-925248-3 LEUFFEN, Dirk et al. (2013): Differentiated Integration: Explaining Variation in the European Union. Basingstoke: Palgrave, ISBN 978-0230246430					
Languages necessary to complete the course: slovak, english					
Notes:					
Past grade distribution Total number of evaluated students: 203					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
31,53	28,57	23,15	10,84	5,42	0,49
Lecturers: prof. M. Phil. Jozef Bátora, PhD.					
Last change: 04.04.2022					
Approved by:					

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-139/23	Course title: Migration in Global and Local Context
Educational activities: Type of activities: seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 per level/semester: 28 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 3	
Recommended semester: 4., 6., 16.	
Educational level: I., II.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: Activity/Points: Active participation in the seminars 20 In-class presentation 60 Final written report 20 The condition for taking the final written exam is, in accordance with the provisions of the FiF UK Study Regulations, to achieve at least 60% of the interim assessment, i.e. min. 48 points within this course. A student who does not achieve at least 48 points from the interim assessment will be assessed in this course with a grade FX without the possibility of taking the final exam. In-class presentation: Each student has allocated slot of 15 minutes to present the topic related to migration. Content-wise, the presentation should focus on issue and present background information, supporting arguments and opposing arguments, declaring point of view taken by student (and explaining the reason for such stance). The evaluation takes into account the form of the presentation as well as the presentation (performance itself). Final written report: the student processes the topic that she/he addressed in the presentation into a research proposal. Detailed information about the content and form of the research proposal will be presented at the first meeting. Rating scale: A = 100-92, B = 91-84, C = 83-76, D = 75-68, E = 67-60, FX = 59-0 Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 80/20	
Learning outcomes: This course is based on realized Erasmus+ program Strategic partnership project: "GlocalEAST - development of a new curriculum in the field of global migration, diaspora and border studies in the East and Central Europe." In this course we solve the complex and interconnected challenges of migration, diaspora and borders on the contemporary scene. The students will have a chance to learn basic theoretical approaches to the migration and to get deeper understanding of the phenomena through examining case studies from the CEE region.	
Class syllabus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of migration • International protection regime 	

- Migration in political and public discourse
- Fiscal consequences of immigration
- Integration approaches to migrants
- Forced migrants vs. voluntary migration

Recommended literature:

Garcés-Mascareñas, B. & Penninx, R. (2016). Integration Processes and Policies in Europe. Contexts, Levels and Actors. Cham: Springer. Available at: https://www.google.sk/books/edition/Integration_Processes_and_Policies_in_Eu/XSLUCgAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0

King, R. & Lulle, A., (2016). Research on Migration. Facing Realities and Maximizing Opportunities, European Commission. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/library-document/research-migration-facing-realities-and-maximising-opportunities-policy-review_en

Kissová, L. (2018). The Production of (Un)deserving and (Un)acceptable: Shifting Representations of Migrants within Political Discourse in Slovakia. East European Politics and Societies, 32(4): 743–766.

Kudsko, A. (2017) Migration politics in Slovakia: Balancing domestic and EU-level goals. In: Migration politics and policies in Central Europe, Globsec, p. 26-34.

World Migration Report 2013 Migrant Well-being and development (2013). Geneva: International Organization for Migration. Available at: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr2013_en.pdf

Languages necessary to complete the course:

english

Notes:

Past grade distribution

Total number of evaluated students: 42

A	B	C	D	E	FX
64,29	19,05	4,76	0,0	7,14	4,76

Lecturers: Mgr. Zsolt Gál, PhD., Mgr. Aneta Világi, PhD.

Last change: 27.06.2023

Approved by:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-008/22	Course title: Nondemocratic Regimes 1
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 / 2 per level/semester: 28 / 28 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 7	
Recommended semester: 3., 15.	
Educational level: II.	
Prerequisites:	
Antirequisites: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-008/15	
Course requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active participation:20% • Position papers:30% • Group project:20% • Written exam:30% Grading scale: A: 100% - 92% B: 91% - 84% C: 83% - 76% D: 75% - 68% E: 67% - 60% FX: 59% - 0% Minimum 60%. Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 70/30	
Learning outcomes: The course reflects on politics and governance in autocratic regimes, not only in the past, but also current trends of political development in Europe and in the world. In this course, students will learn about approaches to defining, studying and analyzing of autocratic regimes. Current political development shows that autocratic (i.e. non-democratic) regimes remain to prove to be vital, particularly by acting as democracies, hence they organize elections, but in the context of „controlled“ political competition. Several new, as well as consolidated democracies face a variety of crises, which leads to weakening of democracy. The course will also address current developments in the countries of East and Central Europe, which despite expectations, caused by relatively successful political and economic transformation of former Soviet satellites (after the fall of iron curtain), and their speedy integration in the EU, have not led to stabilization, attractiveness and spreading of democracy around the world.	
Class syllabus:	

What Democracy is... and is not?; Non-democratic regimes and where to find them; Non-democratic Regimes and their classifications; Thinking about the stability of non-democratic regimes; Ideology and terror. Totalitarianism; Tradition and hierarchy. Monarchies, theocracies.; Elections and political parties. One-party regimes and competitive authoritarianism.

Recommended literature:

BROOKER, Paul: Non-Democratic Regimes. 2nd edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan 2009. ISBN 978-0-230-20275-7

SIAROFF, Alan: Comparing Political Regimes. A Thematical Introduction to Comparative Politics. North York: University of Toronto Press 2009. ISBN 978-1-44260-012-6

SVOLIK, Milan W. The Politics of Authoritarian Rule. New York: Cambridge University Press 2012. ISBN 978-1107607453

MOLLER, Jorgen & Svend-Erik SKAANING (2010). „Beyond the Radial Delusion: Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy and Non-democracy“ International Political Science Review 31(3), pp. 261-283, DOI: 10.1177/0192512110369522

WAHMAN, Michael; TEORELL, Jan & Axel HADENIUS (2013). „Authoritarian regime types revisited: updated data in comparative perspective“ Contemporary Politics 19(1), pp. 19-34, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13569775.2013.773200>

Languages necessary to complete the course:

slovak, english

Notes:

Past grade distribution

Total number of evaluated students: 251

A	B	C	D	E	FX
18,73	27,49	22,31	18,33	9,56	3,59

Lecturers: M. A. Samuel Spáč, PhD., Mgr. Radovan Geist, PhD., prof. PhDr. Darina Malová, PhD.

Last change: 04.04.2022

Approved by:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-092/14	Course title: Politics and Government in Ukraine
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 1 / 1 per level/semester: 14 / 14 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 3	
Recommended semester: 3., 5., 15.	
Educational level: I., II.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 100/0	
Learning outcomes: The following course is designed to introduce the political system of Ukraine and its applicative functioning. Students will be able to find out what political regime exists in Ukraine, how the parliament and the government operate, what are the reasons of the tragic events of 2013/2014 in Ukraine and what challenges are present in Ukraine's foreign policy. The foreign policy challenges include Ukraine's cooperation with the European Union and the relations with the Russian Federation. At the end of the course, students will be able to generally define Ukraine's political system and the country's place on the international political arena.	
Class syllabus: What the Ukrainian state is. Brief history – extended content. Ukraine before the communist revolution in 1917. Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: struggling to survive in the USSR. Independent Ukraine: the Constitution and political regime. The institution of presidency and the Cabinet of Ministers in Ukraine. The fourth power: oligarchic groups and their role in Ukraine's political life. The Orange Revolution in 2004: ready, steady – but no volunteers to go. The foreign policy vector one: Western dimension. Ukraine and the European Union. The foreign policy vector two: Eastern dimension. Ukraine and Russia. Euromaidan 2013/2014: timeline and causes. The annexation of the Crimea and the crisis of 2014	
Recommended literature: Von Hagen, Mark. 1995. Does Ukraine Have a History? Slavic Review 54, no. 3 (Autumn): 658 – 673 Roland Rich "Recognition of States: The Collapse of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union" World Sentinel What Political System Does Ukraine Need? Andreas Umland.	

Reading: Taras Kuzio “Viktor Yanukovich’s First 100 Days. Back to the Past, But What’s the Rush?” S. Matuszak “The oligarchic democracy. The influence of business groups on Ukrainian politics”. Pp.41-51 (“the family” section). Paul D'Anieri “What Has Changed in Ukrainian Politics?”					
Languages necessary to complete the course: English					
Notes:					
Past grade distribution Total number of evaluated students: 77					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
75,32	11,69	3,9	0,0	2,6	6,49
Lecturers: Mgr. Kateryna Yakovenko, PhD.					
Last change: 11.03.2017					
Approved by:					

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-moPO-003/15	Course title: Public Finances
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 / 2 per level/semester: 28 / 28 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 7	
Recommended semester: 1., 15.	
Educational level: II.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: - Presentation –One short (15-20 minutes with additional 5-10 minutes discussion) presentation should be given by each student during the course. 40% - Handout (notes)–summary notes are required from each student. The notes should be prepared according to the course schedule and given (in a printed form) to the lecturer and shared with other students. 10% - Seminar paper –8 to 12page paper (Times New Roman, 1.5 times spacing, without notes, references, tables and figures) is required on any of the topics in the course schedule (it could be focused more on a particular issue). The topic should be agreed by the course instructor. Try to avoid simple descriptions and write a paper focusing on sources of problems, comparisons of countries, systems, institutions etc. Asking questions, trying to answer them, arguing and drawing down conclusions is what is needed instead of just describing particular issues, policies, institutions (it does not mean a good description is not welcomed).50% Grading scale: A: 100% - 92% B: 91% - 84% C: 83% - 76% D: 75% - 68% E: 67% - 60% FX: 59% - 0% Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 50/50	
Learning outcomes: The aim of the course is to examine the most important issues and challenges of public budgets and fiscal policies in the developed countries. How the large redistributive welfare systems (like pension and health-care systems) work? How labour markets are regulated and influenced by government policies? What are the most important challenges welfare systems and public budgets face? What about the current and possible future trends? We put a great emphasis on comparing various countries, socio-economic models, institutions, on best practices and on the study of	

reforms/possible reforms, which can help to make public finances and various sectoral policies and institutions more sustainable. We also try to improve the presentation and writing skills.					
Class syllabus:					
Recommended literature: ESPING-ANDERSEN, Gosta a Duncan GALLIE. Why we need a new welfare state. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN: 0-19-925643-8 REINHART, Carmen M. a Kenneth ROGOFF. This Time is Different. Eight Centuries of Financial Folly. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-691-14216-6 AIGINGER, Karl a Alois GUGER. 2005. The European Socio-Economic Model, Differences to the USA and Changes over Time, WIFO working papers No. 266, 2005. Wien. [cit 2021-09-02] Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/23729356_The_European_Socio-Economic_Model_Differences_to_the_USA_and_Changes_over_Time VAUGHAN-WHITEHEAD, Daniel. The European Social Model in Crisis. Is Europe Losing its Soul? International Labour Organization, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing Limited 2005. [cit 2021-09-02]. Available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_630617.pdf					
Languages necessary to complete the course: slovak, english					
Notes:					
Past grade distribution Total number of evaluated students: 372					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
16,4	14,25	19,35	21,51	23,66	4,84
Lecturers: Mgr. Zsolt Gál, PhD., doc. PhDr. Daniel Klimovský, PhD.					
Last change: 31.03.2022					
Approved by:					

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KPol/A-boSE-010/26	Course title: The Visegrad Group in the Context of European Integration
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 1 / 1 per level/semester: 14 / 14 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 5	
Recommended semester:	
Educational level: I., II.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: - An active participation at the workshop discussions (10%), each student has to participate in seminar discussions, at least one time. - Group presentations of obligatory readings at seminars (30%), -The final test (60%), in the form of Open Book Exam, details will be provided one week before the test Evaluation: A: 100% - 92% B: 91% - 84% C: 83% - 76% D: 75% - 68% E: 67% - 60% FX: 59% - 0% In order to be awarded a rating and to obtain a credit, it is necessary to obtain a min. 60% of the total rating Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 40/60	
Learning outcomes: The course provides students with an understanding of the impact of European integration on the Visegrad Group (V4) countries during and after the“Eastern” EU enlargement. Students will gain knowledge about the European integration and learn about the highly complex processes of widening and deepening of the two fundamental structures of modern societies: democracy and market. The students will understand the interplay between the EU conditionality policy and its impact on the V4 countries.	
Class syllabus: Introduction into the course. Central Europe and its tragedy. Fall of the Berlin Wall;; History, Development and Meanings of the European integration. The EU Enlargement Policy: Membership Criteria and V4 Responses. Case study of Slovakia’s Path to Democracy and Market Economy under the ‘auspices’ of the EU. Case Study of the Czech Republic: Always a good student?	

Case Study of Poland: EU Politics as an implication of its size?
 Case Study of Hungary: The political context of EU accession in Hungary
 European Union: Economic and Normative Power? EU's impact on the Member States.
 Thirty years after the Fall: What's Wrong with Central (East) Europe?
 Discussion: Advantages and disadvantages of EU membership for the Visegrad Four countries

Recommended literature:

FEATHERSTONE, Kevin and Claudio M. RADAELLI (Eds.). The Politics of Europeanization. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. ISBN 0-19-925209-2
 FISHER, Sharon. Political Change in Post-Communist Slovakia and Croatia. From Nationalist to Europeanist. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006. ISBN 978-1-4039-7286-6
 GRABBE, Heather. The EU's Transformative Power. Europeanization Through Conditionality in Central and Eastern Europe. New York: Palgrave, 2006. ISBN 78-1-403-94903-5
 MALOVÁ, Darina and Branislav DOLNÝ. The Eastern Enlargement of the EU: Challenges To Democracy? In: Human Affairs 2008, 18, 67–80, 2008, DOI:10.2478/v10023-008-0006-4
 VACHUDOVA, Milada. Europe Undivided: Democracy, Leverage, & Integration After Communism. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. ISBN: 9780199241194

Languages necessary to complete the course:

English

Notes:

Past grade distribution

Total number of evaluated students: 0

A	B	C	D	E	FX
0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0

Lecturers: prof. PhDr. Darina Malová, PhD.

Last change: 16.06.2026

Approved by: