

Course Title : Introduction to Political Sciences

Code	Course Type	Regular Semester	Lecture (hours/week)	Seminar (hours/week)	Lab (hours/week)	Credits	ECTS
PLS 101	C	3	3	0	0	3.00	5
Lecturer and Office Hours			Laurela Muca, PhD Candidate				
Teaching Assistant and Office Hours							
Language			Albanian				
Course Level			Bachelor				
Description			<p>In a world where the importance of politics is increasing, many questions arise that need to be answered. Politics have become nowadays an inevitable part of the life of the individual, making it impossible the lack of conflict between human rights and collective decisions. The answer to these questions and the overall study of this science becomes naturally a necessity not only for the students of political science and those of communication sciences in the framework of their overall education, but also for every individual as a natural actor of the political life of the country. In this context, in this course we will aim to study the most important questions related to politics and attempt to find relevant answers. This course is an introduction to politics in a globalized world, with a particular focus on how political science tries to understand and explain cross-country differences and cross-time differences between countries. The course is designed in a manner that provides appropriate knowledge to those students who intend to pursue their studies in the field, as well as to those who are interested in creating a better understanding of the political world</p>				
Objectives			<p>The course aims to provide students with the basic vocabulary of this science and in particular the basic concepts in politics; to inform students about government and non-governmental institutions; to introduce them to the main differences between democratic and non-democratic regimes, and between different models of democratic government; introduce students to how political preferences are formed, how voters behave, how parties compete, how interest groups are formed, and how electoral systems shape behavior. In addition during this course the students will learn how politics works nowadays. At the end of this course the students will be informed about the structure of politics and politicians in modern times.</p>				

Course Outline

Week	Topics
1	The Science of Politics
2	Basic Concepts in Political Science
3	Culture and Ideology in Politics
4	Values in Politics
5	Media and Public Opinion
6	Systems and Ideologies; Democracy
7	States and Nations
8	Midterm Exam
9	Politics and Government
10	Political Parties and Electoral Campaigns
11	Legislative and Executive Process
12	Administrative and Judicial Process
13	International Relations and Human Rights
14	Non Governmental Organizations

15	Repeat
16	Final Exam
Prerequisites	
Textbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Heywood, "Key Concepts in Politics" • Andrew Heywood, "Politics, 3e" • S. Hix and M. Whiting, "Introduction to political science"
Other References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawson Kay, "Introduction to Political Science 1e", San Francisco State University • Ben Duprè, "50 political ideas you really need to know"
Laboratory Work	
Computer Usage	
Other	

Learning Outcomes and Competences

1	Students will get to know the main concepts in politics, the nature of politics, government and state based on the modern theories of political science.
2	Students will be informed on the models of political and rational behavior of political "actors".
3	Students will be able to obtain knowledge on the principles of the International Law and Human Rights
4	Students will be prepared for further in-depth studies in political science
5	Students will get acquainted with the basic vocabulary of the political science

Course Evaluation Methods

In-term studies	Quantity	Percentage
Midterms	1	25
Quizzes	2	10
Projects	0	0
Term Projects	1	20
Laboratory	0	0
Attendance	0	0
Contribution of in-term studies to overall grade		55
Contribution of final examination to overall grade		45
Total		100

ECTS (Allocated Based on Student) Workload

Activities	Quantity	Duration (hours)	Total Workload (hours)
Course Duration (Including the exam week : 16 x Total course hours)	16	3	48
Hours for off-the-classroom study (Pre-study, practice)	14	4	56
Assignments	1	0	0
Midterms	1	10	10
Final examination	1	11	11
Other	0	0	0
Total Work Load			125
Total Work Load / 25 (hours)			5

ECTS	5
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