



COURSES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES for ERASMUS INCOMING STUDENTS

2023/2024 academic year

Faculty of Philosophy

Faculty coordinator: Assoc. Prof. Boris Popivanov, PhD - bpopivanov@phls.uni-sofia.bg

Programme: Political Science

Department coordinator: Assistant Prof. Boris Kostov, PhD, bkkostov@phls.uni-sofia.bg

Course code	Course title (in English)	Language of instruction	Course offered to BA/BS, MA/MS, PhD	Semester (winter/ summer)	ECTS	Workload (hours)			Lecturer/s's name	Lecturer/s's E-mail
						Lectures	Exercises/ Seminars	Practical work		
FF I313	CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY	English	MA	Winter	5	30			Assistant Prof. Ruzha Smilova	rsmilova@phls.u ni-sofia.bg

Short description of the course (in the language of instruction):

The aim of this course is to familiarize students in political science with the main currents within the rapidly developing field of political philosophy in the Anglo-Saxon analytic tradition. The advantages of this style of conceptualizing political problems are: conceptual clarity and rigor combined with acute sensitivity to current political practice (examples from everyday politics are the starting point and the constant point of reference for many of the presented theories), accessible style of theorizing, and, not least, a critical dialogue with the main traditions of political thought.

The course builds upon the series of comprehensive courses on the history of political ideas, offered in the Political Science department of Sofia University. However, background in history of political ideas is not a prerequisite for taking this course, since there will be a comprehensive introduction of each of the topics covered. The course does bring new light on the traditional debates, by focusing on topics, concepts and debates, some of which originally re-conceptualize traditional theoretical problems (the duty to obey the law, distributive justice, political authority, the equality-liberty nexus), while others (multiculturalism, some forms of egalitarianism, feminist theory) are altogether unique to the contemporary development of the field.

Requirements for enrollment: NO

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FF II382	Corruption and Oligarchic Interactions in Transitional Post-Communist Societies	English	MA	Winter	5	30			Assoc. Prof. Ognyan Minchev	om.link@iris-bg.org

Corruption is often defined as a deviation from the institutional norm carried out in one's private interest. When we look at post-communist societies, we must note that here corruption is not just an aberration. Corrupt behavior stems primarily from the weakness and amorphousness of the institutional norm itself.

This weakness and amorphousness is the result of the already established oligarchic interaction between the emerging corporate interests of the old communist elite, operating on the border between legitimate status and that of an organized criminal group, and public institutions purposefully maintained in a state of minimal efficiency and helplessness.

The introduction of institutional control - in judiciary and executive power - is hindered by the very structure of political power, which has fallen under the control of organized oligarchic crime.

Overcoming this systemic problem requires maximum public - civil mobilization and cannot be achieved with one-time actions, but through a purposeful long-term strategy of breaking the oligarchic connection between corporate shadow influence and public institutional power.

Requirements for enrollment: NO

FF 3002	DEMOCRACY AND MEDIA IN A GLOBAL WORLD	English	MA	Winter	5	30			Assos. Prof. Tatyana Burudzhieva	tburudjieva@gmail.com
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Short description of the course (in the language of instruction): The general aim of the course is to present the recent conceptions and theory of democracy and the role of the media. The globalization and the new communication technologies result in important challengers, deformations and transformations simultaneously in the functioning of the democracy and the media. New interaction between politicians and citizens, different motivation of the political behavior, deformation in the understanding of the information – this and many other questions will be discuss.

Requirements for enrollment: NO

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						Lectures	Exercises/Seminars	Practical work		
FF 3004	INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS	English	BA	Winter	5	30			Assoc. Prof. Daniel Smilov	smilov@phls.uni-sofia.bg

Short description of the course (in the language of instruction): The course is designed to introduce students to both politics and political science. It provides an overview of the basic methodologies of political science: methodological individualism, structuralism, constructivism. The course has a part, which is on the history of ideas: it explains basic concepts and acquaints the students with the main political thinkers since antiquity. The course also has a section on the machinery of government, where the students explore the functioning of political regimes, the role of political parties, presidents and parliaments, as well as the different models of governance. Finally, the course deals with issues as democracy and democratisation, politics in a globalised world, and supranational politics.

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FF И318	INTERCULTURAL MEDIATION	English	BA	Winter	5	15	15		Prof. Tatyana Dronzina	dronzina@gmail.com

Short description of the course (in the language of instruction): The main purpose of this course is to contribute to the improvement of the conflict resolution and especially mediation skills. It is concentrated on the features of the mediation process carried out between parties to the conflict having different cultural background.

The course is based on interactive methods as simulation games, case studies, role playing, implementation of multimedia, etc.

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FF 3013	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND US FOREIGN POLICY	English	BA	Winter	5	30			Assoc. Prof. Iskren Ivanov	iivanov@phs.uni-sofia.bg
Short description of the course (in the language of instruction): The main objective of the course is to analyze the process and content of US Foreign Policy. The course is divided into three main modules. The first one examines the theoretical framework of US Foreign Policy. It is intended to familiarize you with the specific ideas, on which the American political process is based. The second one examines the historical development of US Foreign Policy. It aims to analyze the American foreign policy doctrines.										
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FF 3037	THEORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	English	MA	Winter	5	30			Assist. Prof. Boris Kostov	boriskostov2@yahoo.com
Short description of the course (in the language of instruction): The goal is to introduce students to the main theoretical concepts and practical policy issues in contemporary International Relations. The course will cover the traditional theoretical schools (Realism/Neorealism, Neoliberalism, Marxist theories), as well as more recent theoretical developments – Constructivism, Critical Theory, etc. The different levels of analysis will be introduced with an emphasis on the State and System level. The course will include introduction to relevant topics such as: Nationalism and Nation State, International Security, International Organizations and Regimes, International Public Law, Contemporary economic and societal interactions, Globalization, etc.										
Requirements for enrollment: NO										

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FF И324	INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY	English	BA	Summer	5	30			Prof. A. Tomov	tommovv.a@g mail.com

Short description of the course (in the language of instruction): The course " International political economy " is intended for students who specialize in the field of international relations. It covers the following topics: the structure of the world economy in a globalized world ; international financial organizations; international investment banks; global stock and commodity exchanges; multinational companies; major world currencies and the "war " between them.

Students will be introduced to analytical approaches for solving complex issues of international policy, related to economic decisions : price and currency wars; regional and local crises, etc.

Requirements for enrollment: NO

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FF 3025	BULGARIAN PARTY SYSTEM	English	BA	Summer	5	30			Assist. Prof. Teodora Yovcheva, PhD.	t.yovcheva@phls.uni-sofia.bg

Short description of the course (in the language of instruction): This course aims to introduce to students the emergence and evolution of the Bulgarian party system after 1989, the stages of development of the party system in the country and the factors that structure it. The emphasis is on Party organizations, party programs, electoral competition. The course will examine the reasons for the weak institutionalization of political parties and party system in Bulgaria. This will be discussed in the broader context of the crisis of representative functions of parties and strengthening of populism in Bulgaria.

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FF И323	NON-PUBLIC POLITICS	English	BA	Summer	5	30			Prof. Nikolay Naydenov	nayden@phs.uni-sofia.bg
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Short description of the course (in the language of instruction): Non-public politics analyses the drawbacks of the public nature of politics. This problem includes both (i) political actions and decisions which remain invisible for the general public and (ii) conspicuous political actions stimulated by secret political motives. Therefore, hidden political goals could be achieved through public mobilization of politicians, parties, institutions and even large groups of citizens. This approach is not concerned with conspiracy in politics but with the societal conditions that make possible political conspiracy such as the fundamental contradiction between the public and the private in politics.

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FF 3011	SECURITY ISSUES	English	BA	Summer	5	30			Assist. Prof. Boris Kostov	boriskostov2@yahoo.com

Short description of the course (in the language of instruction):

Short description of the course (in the language of instruction): The goal is to introduce students to the main theoretical concepts and practical policy issues in contemporary Security Studies. The course will review the traditional theoretical schools as well as the recent theoretical developments – Peace studies, Critical security studies, Human security, etc. The course will employ a broader definition of security, with an emphasis on the economic, environmental, social and cultural dimensions of security. The different levels of analysis will be introduced with an emphasis on the Regional security complexes. The course will include a part devoted to the „New security threats” – it will comprise of topics such as: technology and security, international terrorism, WMD proliferation, trans-national crime etc. A brief introduction and practical exercises in

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FF I379	RELIGION, POLITICS AND SECURITY IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	English	BA	Summer	5	30				Assoc. Prof. Iskren Ivanov	iivanov@phls.uni-sofia.bg
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Short description of the course: This course analyses the connection between religion, politics and security. It has three main goals. First of all, the course interprets the connection by describing several case studies - France, U.K., Greece, Turkey, India, etc. Second, the course emphasizes on most of the world's religions by analyzing their connection with the political system and the security doctrines of states, where such religions dominate. Third, the course also analyzes some of the most dangerous cults and sects, which have influence on the international political life and security system today. The course is based on empirical researches in fields such as radicalization, terrorism prevention, religious politics, etc.

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FF I314	TRENDS IN FEMALE SUICIDE TERRORISM	English	MA	Summer	5	30			Prof. Tatyana Dronzina	dronzina@gmail.com

Short description of the course: This course studies terrorism as one of the major new security challenges. The suicide terrorism is viewed not just as a means to achieve specific political goals, but also as an efficient tool to prevail in the consolidation of political loyalty. The course will concentrate on the gender aspects of this phenomenon and will study the motivation for such acts at societal, organizational and individual level. Different interpretative frameworks will be applied, including the Rational choice theory, theories of social identification, etc.

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FF I317	Economic Methods of Analysis in International Relations	English	MA	Summer	5	30			Assist. Prof. Ruzha Smilova	rsmilova@phls.uni-sofia.bg

Short description of the course (in the language of instruction): This course is an introduction to rational choice theory and its application as a method for analyzing political behavior, and for explaining political phenomena and processes more generally. It is intended for advanced, MA level students in political science. It offers an in-depth analysis of such already covered in their prior studies areas of politics as theory of the state, power and constitutional politics, political parties' and voters' behavior, conflict resolution, party competition, the characteristic features of bureaucracies and hierarchies, of fiscal and re-distributive policies, etc., which utilizes formal assumptions about political actors as rational utility-maximizers, and based on these assumptions builds explanatory models.

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FF И300	ANATOMY OF CORRUPTION	English	MA	Summer	5	30			Prof. Nikolay Naydenov	nayden@phls. uni-sofia.bg

Short description of the course (in the language of instruction): This course analyses the nature, factors, mechanisms, consequences, prevention, and combating of corruption. The social roots and the contradictory nature of corruption are the main emphases in interpreting corruption. Special attention is given to the (post)totalitarian and the Mediterranean traditions in corruptive practices. The main goals of the course are (i) to throw light on the complex ways in which corruption pervades contemporary society, (ii) to dispel common illusions about corruption, and (iii) to systematize the main structural and practical obstacles for preventing and tackling corruption.

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