

Information sheet for the course
Political Parties and Elections

University: <i>Alexander Dubcek University of Trencin</i>	
Faculty: <i>Department of Political Science</i>	
Course unit code: <i>PLTP3</i>	Course unit title: <i>Political Parties and Elections</i>
Type of course unit: <i>compulsory</i>	
Planned types, learning activities and teaching methods: <i>Lecture: 2 hours weekly</i> <i>Seminar: 2 hours weekly</i>	
Number of credits: <i>6</i>	
Recommended semester: <i>autumn</i> Recommended year: <i>2</i>	
Degree of study: <i>I. (bachelor)</i>	
Assessment methods: <i>Students have to write a seminar work and study recommended readings during the semester to receive credits. The course will be completed by oral exam.</i>	
<i>Marking of the course: A – at least 92 points, B – at least 83 points, C – at least 74 points, D at least 65 points, E – at least 56 points.</i>	
Learning outcomes of the course unit: <i>By completing the course, the student will be able to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>use theoretical and conceptual tools to understand the functioning and internal organization of European political parties;</i> • <i>describe the influence of social and institutional factors on the emergence and form of party systems,</i> • <i>characterize the effects of electoral systems on the form of party systems;</i> • <i>evaluate the ways in which political parties choose their leaders and candidates for elections,</i> • <i>understand the process of creating government coalitions;</i> • <i>identify classic and modern election campaign tools and understand their effects;</i> • <i>constructively discuss your knowledge and opinions on the given topics with the help of relevant arguments and present them in a cultured manner before a professional or lay audience;</i> • <i>communicate and present the topics of political parties and elections in English;</i> • <i>work as a team to solve specific tasks, ensure the functioning of the group and the distribution of tasks to individual members.</i> 	
Course contents: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Introduction to the subject, information about its content and conditions for its successful completion</i> 2. <i>Definitions and functions of a political party</i> 3. <i>Party families in Western Europe, ideological classification of parties</i> 4. <i>Social cleavages and social prerequisites for the emergence of political parties</i> 5. <i>Models of party organization, institutionalization of political parties</i> 6. <i>Votes and seats: characteristics of basic electoral systems</i> 7. <i>Typologies of party systems</i> 8. <i>Election campaign, its forms, means and resources</i> 9. <i>Types of electoral systems and their impact on the allocation of posts</i> 10. <i>Electoral systems and party systems</i> 11. <i>Formation of coalition governments</i> 12. <i>Functioning of the party machine: selection of candidates</i> 	

Recommended or required reading:

- FARRELL, D. M. 2011. *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. 2nd edition. ISBN 9781403912312
- HEYWOOD, A. 2008. *Politics*. 2008. ISBN 9780230367258
- HLOUŠEK, V. - KOPEČEK, L. - ŠEDO, J. 2018. *Politické systémy*. Brno: Barrister & Principal Publishing, 2018. 2. aktualizované vydání. 9788074851506
- JUST, P. 2018. *Pod Tatrou sa blýska (Strany, vlády a koalície na Slovensku v letech 2006 až 2016)*. LIBRI 2018. ISBN 9788072775682
- NOVÁK, M. a kol. 2016. *Strany, volby a demokracie: Od Duvergera, k Sartorimu a dále*. Praha: SLON, 2016. 1. vyd. ISBN 978-80-7419-233-3
- RYBÁŘ M. 2011. *Politické strany a stranické systémy. Úvod do ich štúdia. Učebný text, 1. vyd. Bratislava. UK, 2011.*
- ŘÍCHOVÁ, B. 2006. *Přehled moderních politologických teorií*. 2. vyd. Praha. Portál. 2006.
- SARTORI, Giovanni. 2001. *Srovnávací ústavní inženýrství: Zkoumání struktur, podnetů a výsledků*. Praha. Slon, 2001. (vybrané části)
- LEDUC, L. et al. 2002. *Comparing Democracies 2: New Challenges in the Study of elections and voting*. London. Sage Publications, 2002.
- KATZ, R. S. - MAIR, P. 2018. *Democracy and the cartelization of political parties*. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Recommended or required reading:

BULMER, S. et al. Politics in the European Union. 5th ed. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2020. 596 s. ISBN: 9780198820635

FIALA, P. - KUTÍLEK, O. - PITROVÁ, M. Evropská unie. Brno : Centrum pro studium demokracie a kultury, 2018. ISBN 9788073254506

KRATOCHVÍL, P. Teorie evropské integrace. Praha : Portál, 2008. 224 s. ISBN 978-80-7367-467-0

KUBICEK, P. European Politics. London and New York : Routledge, 2017.

HRIVÍK, P. Európska integrácia a základy fungovania Európskej únie (Historický, politologický a inštitucionálno-právny rámec vývoja integrácie). Trenčín : Trenčianska univerzita Alexandra Dubčeka, 2016. 308 strán. ISBN 978-80-8075-620-8.