



Language Centre
Faculty of Social Studies
MASARYK UNIVERSITY
Joštova 10, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic

CJVA454

English for Political Science

Syllabus

Course Information

Class day/time	Spring semester, Mondays, 16:00–17:40, U36
Number of credits	2
Class type	Lectures and class discussions
Lecturers	Colin Kimbrell
Contact	442840@mail.muni.cz
Office Hours	Tuesday, 16:00–16:45 (or by appointment)

Course Description

This course is intended for master's students of political science and related fields. The main focus of the seminar is on discussing current issues in Czech and world politics, based on watching videos concerning these issues and reading newspaper or journal articles. Great attention is also devoted to building vocabulary both from the field of political science and Academic English as such. The content of the course will be adjusted to students' needs and preferences discussed in the first seminar.

Course Requirements

- 1) Given the seminar structure of the course, students are expected to attend all sessions (up to 2 unexcused absences), with exceptions stated by the Masaryk University Study and Examination Regulations.
- 2) Students are expected to do required readings/viewings for each lecture. The readings serve to initiate discussion but also to expand students' vocabulary and exposure to authentic English. Links to required readings can be found in the syllabus or under the Study Materials → Learning Materials folder in the Information System.
- 3) During the semester, students will be required to cooperate in the preparation of one weekly presentation on a topic of interest.
- 4) PowerPoint presentations from lectures will be provided in the Study Materials.

Course Schedule

1) 17. 2. 2020 - Introduction and content negotiation

- Pop quiz
- Narrowing the topic and negotiating the course content

2) 24. 2. 2020 - Topics research and intro to the role of modern media in political discourse

- Finalizing course content and syllabus
- Discussion of the media's role in modern society and politics

Recommended reading/viewing:

- https://www.ted.com/talks/christiane_amanpour_how_to_seek_truth_in_the_era_of_fake_news#t-272100

3) 2. 3. 2020 - Global security

Subtopics:

- Role of international organizations
- Nuclear proliferation
- Arms trade
- Crises/conflicts

4) 9. 3. 2020 – Regional security complexes

Subtopics:

- Refugees & migration – Rohingya, climate refugees, Australian immigration policy
- Middle East & North Africa – ISIS, Sunni vs. Shia Islam
- Arctic
- EU & N. Africa
- CEE foreign policy

5) 16. 3. 2020 – (Global) free trade

Subtopics:

- Brexit and the future of the British economy
- Poverty and inequality in a globalized economy
- International political economy and int'l trade organizations

6) 23. 3. 2020 – (de)Democratization

Subtopics:

- Defining and measuring democracy
- Rise of the far right in Europe
- Secessionist movements & democracy
- U.S. primaries

7) 30. 3. 2020 – Rise of populism and nationalism

Subtopics:

- Defining populism: populism in word if not in deed?
- Left- vs. right-wing populism
- Current political movements in Europe and around the world

8) 6. 4. 2020 – Guest lecture: Current social movements in France

Required reading/viewing:

- *TBD*

9) 13. 4. 2020 – Easter Monday

No lecture – reading week

10) 20. 4. 2020 – Political psychology

Subtopics:

- PP & modern media
- PP & elections

11) 27. 4. 2020 – Energy transition

Subtopics:

- Energy transition vs. energy security
- Climate change
- Germany's *Energiewende*
- Energy democracy and energy justice

12) 4. 5. 2020 – U.S. Foreign Policy

Subtopics:

- FP under the Trump administration
- Relations with... Iran/Russia/China/N. Korea
- NATO and the EU
- Hegemonic stability theory – is the US still THE hegemonic superpower (or, indeed, has it every been)?

13) 11. 5. 2020 – Rise of China

Subtopics:

- The Belt & Road Initiative
- China in Africa
- Huawei & Europe's 5G infrastructure
- China's human rights record – current case of the Uighur

Cheating and plagiarism

Cheating in any other part or aspect of the course will result in failure of the course. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will also result in a final grade of an F. The Disciplinary Commission will be notified about any cases of plagiarism.