

Faculty of Political Sciences
University of Zagreb
Under-graduate programmes in Politics and Journalism

POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

Course Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Dejan Jović

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ECTS Credits: 5
Teaching methods: Lectures and seminars
Availability and Type: Third and fourth year undergraduate (elective); Erasmus students (subject to TLAs with their home universities)

Objectives of the course:

The primary objective of this course is to broaden students' knowledge of historical and contemporary issues that have affected politics and society in Southeast Europe. The course will focus on history of the Balkans (from Ottoman period until today); identity of the region and its nations, people and states; as well as contemporary politics and society in SEE. Although the focus of the course is on politics, broader societal and cultural dimensions will also be included. The course aims at better understanding of problems facing Southeast European countries in contemporary context. The EU-SEE dimension will also be included towards the last part of the course.

Learning outcomes:

The course will raise students' awareness about complexity of Southeast Europe as a mega-region. It will enhance their understanding of political and societal circumstances in the Balkans/SEE. In addition, the course will help their understanding of country-by-country political, cultural and economic issues.

Course description:

This course is structured in three parts: a) historical overview; b) regional-level analysis of relevant issues that are shared by all, or near-all countries of the region; and c) selective case-studies. Subsequently, in terms of its contents, the course will be divided in three blocks: 1) history of the region (primarily recent history, i.e. 20th century) and its impact on contemporary politics in Southeast Europe; 2) issues of national identity, war and peace, memories and security after Empires, as well as in post-Yugoslav period; and 3) country-by-country case-studies. The course will end with a forward-looking analysis of possible scenarios for Southeast Europe in foreseeable future.

Attendance:

Full-time students are requested to attend seminars on regular basis. In order to successfully complete the course, students should attend at least two thirds of all seminars. This means that they can miss four seminar meetings, but not five. If any student has a very exceptional reason for long-term absence, he/she should immediately contact the course coordinator so that he can approve an alternative arrangement for completion of the course. Attendance of lectures is not compulsory but it is highly recommended, as they make an essential part of the learning process. In addition, its contents will be discussed in seminars and may be referred to in oral examination.

Lectures:

0. Organizational issues
1. Introduction to the Balkans (Southeastern Europe): concepts and identities
2. Ottoman Empire and Its Legacy
3. Nation-States and Nationalisms in SEE
4. Turkey
5. Greece
6. Socialist Yugoslavia and its disintegration
7. Wars, memories and post-war reconciliation
8. North Macedonia
9. Albania and Albanians (Kosovo)
10. Bosnia and Herzegovina
11. Montenegro
12. Serbia
13. Croatia and SEE
14. EU Enlargement and External Powers in Western Balkans

Assessment:

Students' performance will be examined via two components:

- One essay of 2,500 words. The grade for the essay will count as 50% of the overall grade.
- One oral exam. This will count as 50 % of the overall grade. Students should choose five topics among those discussed in Seminars – different from the one they wrote an essay about - and nominate them for oral examination. The oral exam will be scheduled during the official exam period(s).

Language of teaching and assessment:

All teaching in this course will be in English – both in lectures and in seminars. However, in all elements of the assessment procedure (when writing their essays as well as in oral exams) students are **free to use either English or Croatian**.