



UNIwersYTET
IM. ADAMA MICKIEWICZA
W POZNANIU

American Political Culture and Society

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

Study programme Stosunki międzynarodowe (English programme)		Didactic cycle 2024/25	
Speciality brak		Subject code 14SMEAPSS.22S.11377.24	
Organizational unit Faculty of Political Studies and Journalism		Lecture languages English	
Study level Second-cycle programme		Course type Obligatory from specialty	
Study form Full-time		Block specialty subjects	
Education profile General academic			
Subject coordinator	Paulina Pospieszna		
Lecturer	Paulina Pospieszna		
Period Semester 2	Activities and hours • Classes: 15, Graded credit		Number of ECTS points 3

Goals

Code	Goal
C1	Familiarize students with the theoretical frameworks used to analyze political culture and society, esp. American political culture and society, including key concepts and approaches such as pluralism, elitism, social capital, and symbolic politics, among others.
C2	Familiarize students with the main elements of political culture that shape the US political system and assess their changes over time
C3	Provide knowledge about the implications of these changes for democracy in the United States.
C4	Examine the impact of cultural backlash on political culture and democracy.
C5	Explain Inglehart and Welzel's theory of cultural evolution and its application in understanding changes in US political culture.
C6	Introduce students to work of Almond and Verba on political culture and participation, and facilitate their understanding of the key concepts presented; explore the relationship between political culture, civic engagement, and democratic stability.
C7	Utilize various indicators, such as those included in the World Values Survey or International Social Survey Program, to examine the US case in a comparative perspective.
C8	Develop students' reading and writing skills through the analysis of relevant literature and research on political culture.
C9	Explore the divisions within the political culture and identify the factors that contribute to cultural change, including downward trends (e.g., voting, declining confidence in institutions) and upward trends (e.g., rising feelings of efficacy, self-expression values).
C10	Foster critical thinking and analytical abilities by encouraging students to evaluate and interpret the findings of political culture research in the United States.

Subject learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Learning outcomes	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student:			
W1	Students will gain knowledge of the elements of political culture, such as national pride, collective identities, regime preferences, regime support, confidence in institutions, party identification, ideological orientation, social capital, social trust, and social values.	SME_K2_W03	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
W2	Students will understand the concept of divisions in political culture and the factors influencing cultural change, including downward trends (e.g., voting, declining confidence in institutions) and upward trends (e.g., rising feelings of efficacy, self-expression values).	SME_K2_W02, SME_K2_W03	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
W3	Students will acquire knowledge of the potential impact of political culture on the functioning of political institutions, with a focus on the consequences of cultural change for democracy.	SME_K2_W11	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
W4	Students will develop an understanding of cultural backlash as a modern phenomenon and its relevance to political culture and democracy.	SME_K2_W04	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Learning outcomes	Examination methods
W5	Students will learn how to analyze and interpret various indicators of political culture, such as those included in the World Values Survey or International Social Survey Program, to gain insights into the US case from a comparative perspective.	SME_K2_W02	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
W6	Students will become familiar with key readings on political culture research, including works by Norris and Inglehart, and Inglehart and Welzel	SME_K2_W03	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
W7	Students will gain an understanding of the concept of social capital and its significance in shaping political culture, and analyze its implications for democratic processes and citizen engagement in the United States.	SME_K2_W03, SME_K2_W04, SME_K2_W09	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
Skills - Student:			
U1	Students will develop analytical skills in interpreting and analyzing various aspects of political culture, such as national pride, collective identities, regime preferences, confidence in institutions, party identification, ideological orientation, social capital, social trust, and social values.	SME_K2_U01, SME_K2_U02, SME_K2_U03, SME_K2_U05, SME_K2_U06, SME_K2_U11	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
U2	Students will enhance their research skills by critically examining and discussing the determinants affecting cultural change, including downward trends (voting, declining confidence in institutions) and upward trends (rising feeling of efficacy, self-expression values).	SME_K2_U01, SME_K2_U05, SME_K2_U06, SME_K2_U11	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
U3	Students will improve their comparative perspective skills by analyzing indicators from sources like the World Values Survey or International Social Survey Program to understand the US case in relation to other countries.	SME_K2_U01, SME_K2_U05, SME_K2_U06	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
U4	Students will cultivate presentation skills by leading discussions on specific chapters of the assigned book, coordinating with peers, and preparing presentation materials.	SME_K2_U01	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
U5	Students will develop critical thinking skills through the analysis of cultural backlash as a modern phenomenon and its implications for political institutions and democracy.	SME_K2_U01	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
U6	Students will acquire skills in data interpretation and graphical presentation to effectively communicate survey results.	SME_K2_U01	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
U7	Students will foster cross-cultural understanding by comparing US citizens' values, norms, attitudes, and behaviors with those of citizens in other countries, including both "old democracies" and "new democracies."	SME_K2_U01, SME_K2_U06	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
Social competences - Student:			
K1	Student will enhance their critical thinking skills by analyzing and interpreting indicators of political culture, such as national pride, collective identities, regime preferences, confidence in institutions, party identification, and social values, through a comparative perspective.	SME_K2_K01, SME_K2_K03	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Learning outcomes	Examination methods
K2	Student will improve their communication skills through active participation in class discussions and leading discussions on assigned chapters, where they will present their ideas, coordinate with peers, and formulate discussion questions.	SME_K2_K02, SME_K2_K04	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
K3	Student will develop research skills by conducting an in-depth analysis of data from the World Values Survey (Wave 7) to understand the attitudes, values, norms, and behaviors of US citizens, and their impact on political culture and society.	SME_K2_K01, SME_K2_K03	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
K4	Student will cultivate their cross-cultural understanding by comparing the values, norms, attitudes, and behaviors of US citizens with citizens of other countries, including both "old democracies" and "new democracies."	SME_K2_K01, SME_K2_K03	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
K5	Student will enhance their writing skills by preparing an essay summarizing and analyzing the chosen data from the World Values Survey, and effectively communicating their findings and insights about the American political culture and society.	SME_K2_K01, SME_K2_K02, SME_K2_K03, SME_K2_K05	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
K6	Student will strengthen their teamwork and collaboration skills by coordinating with peers for the presentation of assigned chapters and engaging in constructive discussions and debates during class sessions.	SME_K2_K01, SME_K2_K02, SME_K2_K03, SME_K2_K04, SME_K2_K06	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work
K7	Student will enhance their intercultural communication skills by engaging in discussions and debates with classmates from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, fostering mutual understanding and respect.	SME_K2_K02	Project, Essay, Multimedia presentation, Written work

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject learning outcomes	Activities
1.	Theoretical Frameworks for Analyzing Political Culture and Society	W1, W2, W5, U1, U3, K1, K2, K6	Classes
2.	Almond and Verba's Work on Political Culture and Participation: Key Concepts and Relationships	W1, W7, U1, U2, U4, U5, K1, K4	Classes
3.	Key Concepts in American Political Culture	W1, W4, U1, U3, K1, K7	Classes
4.	Inglehart and Welzel's Theory of Cultural Evolution and its Application to US Political Culture	W1, W6, U1, U3, K1, K4	Classes
5.	Changes in Political Culture and their Implications for Democracy in the United States	W1, W3, U1, U5, K1, K3, K6	Classes

No.	Course content	Subject learning outcomes	Activities
6.	Cultural Backlash and its Impact on Political Culture and Democracy	W4, W5, U5, U7, K1, K6	Classes
7.	Comparative Analysis of US Political Culture: World Values Survey and International Social Survey Program	W5, W6, U3, U6, K1, K4, K5	Classes

Additional information

Activities	Teaching and learning methods and activities
Classes	Lecture with a multimedia presentation of selected issues, Conversation lecture, Discussion, Work with text, Case study, Research method (scientific inquiry), Project method, Work in groups

Activities	Credit conditions
Classes	Once throughout the term each student will be responsible for leading the discussion in the end of the class. The student must read the chapters and prepare a short presentation (preferably in power point to be send a day before the meeting to all via MS Teams) which should be coordinated with other students and should prepare several discussion questions. Also, students will analyze data on political culture using dababase. Students with data from World Value Survey that measures political culture at the individual level, i.e. attitudes, values, norms and behaviors of citizens worldwide. Students are required to choose one of the cohort of questions: Political Interest and Political Participation, Political Culture and Political Regimes, Social values, attitudes and stereotypes, Postmaterialist index, Ethical values and norms and the like.

Literature

Obligatory

1. Inglehart, Ronald, and Christian Welzel. 2005. Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence. Cambridge.
2. Norris, Pippa, and Inglehart, R. 2019. Cultural Backlash: Trump, Brexit, and Authoritarian Populism. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108595841
3. The civic culture : political attitudes and democracy in five nations / by Gabriel A. Almond and Sidney Verba. Almond, Gabriel Abraham (1911-2002)., Verba, Sidney (1932-2019). Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1966.

Optional

1. Inglehart, Ronald. 2018. Cultural Evolution: People's Motivations are Changing and Reshaping the World. Cambridge.

Calculation of ECTS points

Activities	Activity hours*
Classes	15
Paper preparation	15
Preparation of a multimedia presentation	20

Preparation of a project	20
Preparation for classes	10
Other	10
Student workload	Hours 90
Number of ECTS points	ECTS 3

* academic hour = 45 minutes

Efekty uczenia się dla kierunku

Kod	Treść
SME_K2_K01	The graduate is ready to poszerzania i aktualizowania oraz krytycznej oceny posiadanej wiedzy
SME_K2_K02	The graduate is ready to odpowiedzialnego pełnienia ról zawodowych, z uwzględnieniem zmieniających się potrzeb społecznych, oraz zachowywania się w sposób profesjonalny i etyczny w pracy zawodowej oraz działalności publicznej związanej z obszarem stosunków międzynarodowych
SME_K2_K03	The graduate is ready to uznawania znaczenia wiedzy w rozwiązywaniu problemów poznawczych i praktycznych w nauce o stosunkach międzynarodowych oraz zasięgania opinii ekspertów w przypadku trudności z samodzielnym rozwiązaniem problemu
SME_K2_K04	The graduate is ready to inicjowania działań na rzecz interesu publicznego oraz wypełniania zobowiązań społecznych, inspirowania i organizowania działalności na rzecz środowiska społecznego (w tym środowiska międzynarodowego)
SME_K2_K05	The graduate is ready to rozwijania dorobku zawodu i podtrzymywania etosu zawodu polityka, dyplomaty oraz specjalisty ds. stosunków międzynarodowych
SME_K2_K06	The graduate is ready to wykazywania się w pracy zawodowej i aktywności publicznej, w szczególności typowej dla specjalisty z zakresu stosunków międzynarodowych, przedsiębiorczością i innowacyjnością
SME_K2_U01	The graduate can właściwie dobierać źródła i informacje z nich pochodzące, dokonywać oceny, krytycznej analizy, syntezy, twórczej interpretacji i prezentacji tych informacji w celu formułowania i rozwiązywania złożonych i nietypowych problemów w zakresie nauki o stosunkach międzynarodowych
SME_K2_U02	The graduate can innowacyjnie wykonywać zadania w nieprzewidywalnych warunkach przez odpowiedni dobór oraz stosowanie właściwych metod i narzędzi, w tym zaawansowanych technik charakterystycznych dla nauki o stosunkach międzynarodowych
SME_K2_U03	The graduate can wykorzystywać posiadaną wiedzę do przystosowania istniejących lub opracowania nowych metod i narzędzi służących do rozwiązywania problemów typowych dla pracy specjalisty z zakresu stosunków międzynarodowych
SME_K2_U05	The graduate can formułować i testować hipotezy związane z prostymi problemami wdrożeniowymi charakterystycznymi dla nauki o stosunkach międzynarodowych
SME_K2_U06	The graduate can umiejętnie wykorzystywać zdobytą wiedzę w komunikowaniu politycznym i prowadzeniu międzynarodowej debaty, rozszerzoną o krytyczną analizę skuteczności i przydatności stosowanej wiedzy
SME_K2_U11	The graduate can prowadzić badania społeczne niezbędne do opracowania diagnozy potrzeb adresatów działań organizacji i instytucji międzynarodowych
SME_K2_W02	The graduate knows and understands w pogłębionym stopniu metody i narzędzia opisu, w tym techniki pozyskiwania i analizy danych oraz teorie dotyczące stosunków międzynarodowych, wyjaśniające złożone zależności między elementami międzynarodowego systemu politycznego
SME_K2_W03	The graduate knows and understands wybrane zagadnienia z zakresu zaawansowanej wiedzy szczegółowej, właściwe dla kierunku stosunki międzynarodowe
SME_K2_W04	The graduate knows and understands fundamentalne dylematy współczesnej cywilizacji, związane z rozwojem i rolą stosunków międzynarodowych oraz ich wpływem na społeczeństwo
SME_K2_W09	The graduate knows and understands rolę stosunków międzynarodowych w funkcjonowaniu grupy społecznej i państwa oraz ich historycznej ewolucji
SME_K2_W11	The graduate knows and understands funkcjonowanie organizacji i sposoby pracy w organizacjach oraz instytucjach politycznych, w tym tych o charakterze międzynarodowym