

Course title: American Political Institutions II

Course code: SA1054

Type of course: compulsory

Level of course: BA

Year of study: 3rd

Semester: 5th

Number of ECTS credits allocated: 5

Name of the lecturer: Radu Andriescu

Course objective: What is an American political institution? Is it as simple as the obvious structure of the state, or is it so amorphous that it can encompass almost everything that is loosely defined as an "institution"? This course will seek to use a case-study method to examine different aspects of American life that can qualify as political institutions.

Course contents: Introduction to American Public Education. American Higher Education's "Political" Purpose. The Electoral System. The Press as a Political Institution. Banks as Political Institutions. The Congressional System. Interest Groups, Unions, and the Tradition of Dissent. The Judicial System

Recommended reading: Benjamin Franklin, fragments from "Proposals Relating to the Education of Youth in Pensilvania" (1749) and "On the Need for an Academy" (1749); Athan Theoharis, "The Politics of Scholarship: Liberals, Anti-Communism, and McCarthyism"; Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (fragments); Henry David Thoreau, "Resistance to Civil Government" (1849); Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. "Natural Law", *Harvard Law Review* 40, 41 (1918). Reprinted in Alfred Lief, ed., *The Dissenting Opinions of Mr. Justice Holmes* (1929)

Teaching methods: lectures, workshops

Assessment methods: weekly response papers; active participation in weekly discussion; final paper prospectus; short presentation; final paper

Language of instruction: English