

Course title: Political Institutions I

Course code: SA0934

Type of course: compulsory

Level of course: BA

Year of study: 2nd

Semester: 3rd

Number of ECTS credits allocated: 5

Name of the lecturer: George Poede

Course objective: 1. Familiarize the students with the fundamental axiological and cultural issues of the American political system, of the political institutions and the typology of the opinions, behavior and political culture in the United States. 2. Highlight the various paradigms of interpretation of the power of the state, as well as of the other institutions. 3. To analyze the main political problems of contemporary society.

Course contents: 1. The constitutional foundations of the American political system. The purpose and the principles of the Constitution. 2. The evolution of the American Federalism. 3. Rights and liberties. 4. Culture and political participation. 5. Political parties. The party structure. 6. Elections in America. 7. Groups of interest: resources and traits. 8. The media and politics. 9. The American Congress. 10. The American legal system.

Recommended reading: Alan Gitelson, Robert Dudley, Melvin Dubnick, *American Government*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1991; James Q. Wilson, *American Government. Brief Edition*, DC Heath and Company, Lexington, 1987; Rexford G. Tugwell, Thomas E. Cronin (editors) – *The Presidency Reappraised*, Praeger Publishers, New York, 1974; Malcolm Shaw (editor), *The Modern Presidency. From Roosevelt to Reagan*, Harper and Row Publishers, New York, 1978; Larry Tomlinson, *American Politics. An Inquiry*, Kendall and Hunt Publishing Company, Dubuque, Iowa, 1987

Teaching methods: lectures, workshops

Assessment methods: homework; final (written) test

Language of instruction: English