Study programme: Security studies

Course title: Theory of politics

Lecturer: Mišo Kulić
Course status: Elective

ECTS: 5

Requirement: None

Course aims

Introducing students to the basic concepts, issues and problems of modern science of politics.

Course outcome

Students will be able to recognize all relevant aspects of understanding the phenomenon of politics and the political community, and on the basis of such understanding, they will be able to establish the foundation of their effective study and later creative thinking in practice.

Course content

Theory classes - Politics, community and society: subject and problems of policy science (politics, policy philosophy, sociology of politics), methods of policy science, antique forms of political community (polis and oikos - civitas and familia), classical understanding of politics, modern understanding of politics. Social power and political power: the notion of power (power and strength), the notion of political power - the relation between power and legitimacy of power, the notion of authority (and sovereignty), the notion of a social conflict, war as a form of political conflict, concept of revolution, political order and political system, manipulation and political socialization, concept of elite and elite theory. The theory of political institutions and organizations: the concept of the institution and organization, the concept of state and its creation, the state as an institution and as an organization, theories about the forms of state and types of political power, types of state power and forms of state order, origin of democracy, concept and its differentiation, personal and class dictatorship, forms of state organization: centralistic (unitary state) and decentralized (federation and confederation), government and administration, the concept and systems of government, the concept of administration, the problem of bureaucracy, law and state, political parties and interest groups, the notion of a political party, the post and types of political parties, party membership and party leadership, the notion of interest groups, the public and public opinion. Modern political ideologies: liberalism and conservatism, the problem of totalitarianism, the origin of the controversy of democracy and totalitarianism in critical theory.

Practice classes - Exercises of interpretation of original tests; analysis of basic concepts and problems.

Literature

- 1. Ljubmir Tadić, Nauka o politici, Rad, Beograd, 1988.
- 2. The Politics Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained Big Ideas (Hardback), Waterstone, 2013.

Number of active teaching classes: 4 Theory classes: 2 Practice classes: 2

Teaching methods

Lectures, exercises, consultations, independent and group work, dialogue methods, discussion groups.

Knowledge assessment (max 100 points)

Pre-exam tasks	Points	Final exam	Points
In-class activity	10	Written exam	
Practice classes	10	Oral exam	40
Mid-term tests	30		
Seminar papers	10		

The above listed knowledge assessment means are just a few among different options (written exam, oral exam, project presentation, seminar papers etc)

* Maximum one page A4 in length