

Course Outline

Course number	RBA304				
Course title	Introduction to Politics				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 CP)				
Total hours	32				
Lecture hours	22				
Seminar and other hours	8 + 2				
Course level	Bachelor				
Prerequisites	None				
Category	Mandatory	X	Restricted elective		Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Jānis Ikstens	Dr.sc.pol.	Visiting professor

COURSE ABSTRACT

The aim of this course is to discuss key concepts of Political Science and scholarly debates about them and to help building an academic understanding about the functioning of the society, the role and importance of politics in the life of the society as well as about making and implementation of political decisions by studying the basic concepts and mainstream theoretical approaches and by establishing causal relationships through considering examples and case studies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- **Knowledge**
 - o In-depth knowledge about key concepts in Political Science and their evolution
 - o General knowledge about the role and circumstances of modern policy making
 - o Knowledge about various approaches to studying politics and corresponding research methods
- **Competencies**
 - o Search, retrieve and analyze information independently
 - o Apply theoretical knowledge to address research problems in line with the academic ethics
 - o Work in a multicultural setting
- **Skills**
 - o Advanced skills of analyzing an academic text
 - o Improved ability to conduct research and communicate its results via course paper
 - o Critical thinking

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Exam –	35%
Course paper – due	30%
Quizz 1 –	10%
Quizz 2 –	10%
Seminar activity	15%

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	Key concepts: politics, power, state	2
2	Political regimes	4
3	Social context of politics	8
4	Political competition	14
5	Multilevel governance	2