

Title:	Introduction to Polish Constitutional Law and Political System
Lecture hours:	30
Study period: (summer/winter)	Winter and summer semester
Number of credits:	6
Assessment methods:	Class attendance, continuous assessment (projects throughout the semester), final test. In case of very good work and performance during the course, the student will be excused from the final text.
Language of instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	Basic knowledge of constitutional concepts and principles of a democratic political system.
Course content:	<p>The course covers the essentials of Polish constitutional law in the context of Polish modern politics. In particular, we will discuss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historical, political and constitutional background (an outline of recent political history, characteristics of the Constitution of 1997 and the basic principles of the political system). 2. Democratic processes (elections and electoral system, political parties and party system, political activity of the citizens, quality of Polish democracy). 3. Constitutional institutions (sources of law and the legislative process, the legislative power: the Sejm and the Senate, the executive power: the President and the Council of Ministers, the judicial power: courts and tribunals, Constitutional organs of law control and protection, protection of fundamental rights and freedoms). <p>During discussions the students will be expected to provide comparative-law references with respect to constitutional systems of their respective countries.</p>
Learning outcomes:	<p>Students are supposed to acquire basic knowledge of the institutions of Polish constitutional law and their practical operation. Since the material will be taught not only by means of presentations (lecture-style teaching), but also through case-studies, the student will develop analytical skills in the interpretation and application of constitutional law, relevant and useful in the context of every democratic country. Furthermore, through projects and assignments aimed at juxtaposition of Polish constitutional and political institutions with constitutional arrangements of their respective countries students will get a comparative perspective of democratic constitutional principles and their application in a given country.</p>
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Literature:	Banaszak Bogusław, Outline of Polish Constitutional Law, Wrocław 2005. Dajczak Wojciech, Handbook of Polish Law (selected chapters), Warszawa 2011. Prokop Krzysztof, Polish Constitutional Law, Białystok 2011. Szymanek Jarosław, Polish Political System. An Introduction, Warszawa 2018.