

Subject card

Subject name and code	Leadership and political elites, PG_00149139						
Field of study	Political Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	2		Language of instruction		English		
Semester of study	3		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr hab. Jarosław Nocoń				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	15		0.0		35.0	50
Subject objectives	Familiarization with theories of power structures, elites and political leadership. Knowledge of basic concepts and terms necessary to describe and explaining the mechanisms of political power structures.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[POLL3_W12] Has an advanced knowledge and understanding of the mechanisms of governance and political decision-making, including knowledge of the basic principles and relationships between management, organizing and other interactions between entrepreneurship and politics, has advanced knowledge of the threats and challenges facing politics, including the principles of creating and developing forms of individual entrepreneurship.	-	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLL3_W08] Has advanced knowledge about democracy, civil society, political culture and the essence of public discourse in historical and contemporary terms.	-	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLL3_W07] Has advanced knowledge of the state, politics and law, as well as the principles of functioning of political systems in the Polish, European and global dimensions.	Knows processes of political structuration of society	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLL3_W06] Has advanced knowledge of political, cultural, economic, legal and ethical structures, their origins and changes.	-	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLL3_W05] Has advanced knowledge of the historical, economic, social, legal, ethical and cultural conditions of political life.	-	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLL3_W04] Has advanced knowledge of the role and importance of political and social participation of an individual in the functioning of political entities.	-	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLL3_W03] Has advanced knowledge of the role of man in social life, especially political life, and his interactions with the social, political, cultural, legal and economic environment.	-	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLL3_K06] Is ready to recognize and respect different points of view determined by different political, cultural and social backgrounds.	-	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLL3_U05] Can determine the mechanisms of functioning of political organisations, including planning and organising the work of oneself and the team, preparing social, political, economic and civic projects (including those involving cooperation with other people), taking into account legal and political aspects in the field of social sciences politics, independently supplementing knowledge and obtaining information, using various sources and technological possibilities.	Knows functions of political elites and leadership	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLL3_U03] Is able to analyse and describe the genesis and course of social, political, economic, legal, ethical and cultural processes and phenomena in historical terms and in the contemporary country and the world.	Is able to analyze interactions between elites and society	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLL3_U01] Can correctly interpret and explain the behaviour of individuals and social groups in social life, especially political life.	-	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report

	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[POLL3_K03] Is ready to define priorities for achieving the tasks set for himself or others.	-	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLL3_U15] Correctly uses terminology in the field of political science and has language skills consistent with the requirements specified for level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.	Knows basic definitions of political elites and leadership	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
Subject contents	1. Between hierarchy and equality. Theories of social structuring 2. Basic assumptions of elitism 3. Classic and contemporary theories of elites 4. Elitism and elitism 5. Political elites and democracy 6. Political leadership - explanation of the concept 7. theories and typologies of political leadership 8. Functions of leadership and political elites 9. Political competences of political activists 10. Verification criteria and recruitment paths for political actors		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	paper, presentation	50.0%	100.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	J. Nocoń, Elity polityczne. Studium interpretacji funkcjonalnej. Toruń 2005 The Palgrave Handbook of Political Elites, H. Best, J. Higley, John (Eds.), London 2018. The Oxford Handbook of Political Leadership, R. A. W. Rhodes and Paul 't Hart (eds), New York 2014 Przywództwo i elity polityczne w krajach WNP. Red. T. Bodio, W. Jakubowski, Warszawa 2010. J. Higley, The endangered West. Myopic elites and fragile social orders in threatening world. New Brunswick and London 2016. Democratic elitism: New theoretical and comparative perspectives. B. Heinrich, J. Higley (eds.). Leiden Boston 2010	
	Supplementary literature	Higley, J. (2008): Elite theory in political sociology, University of Texas at Austin Lasswell, H. y A. Kaplan (1950): Power and society: a framework for political inquiry, Yale University Press, New Haven. Michels, R. (2001 [1915]): Political parties: a sociological study of the oligarchical tendencies of modern democracy, Batoche Books, Kitchener. Mosca, G. (1939 [1896]): The ruling class, Greenwood Press, Westport. Pareto, V. (1991 [1901]): The rise and fall of the elites. An application of theoretical sociology, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, New Jersey.	
	eResources addresses		

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Definitions of political elites K. Marx's theory of social structuring V. Pareto's concept of elites theory of the political class by G. Mosca The law of oligarchy by R. Michels Forms of assessing political actors Political competences
Work placement	Not applicable

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