

Subject card

Subject name and code	Contemporary political theories, PG_00147615						
Field of study	Political Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2026/2027		
Education level	Master'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		Polish		
Semester of study	4		ECTS credits		3.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Division of Political Theory -> Institute of Political Science -> Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector						
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	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	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	30		0.0		45.0	75
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the key political theories that influence the contemporary understanding and view of the political sphere of social life. Acquaintance with the assumptions defining the key paradigms of the interpretation of politics, necessary for an objectified perception of the subject of political science research.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[POLMU2_W14] Has advanced knowledge of theoretical and methodological trends in political science research.	Knows main theoretical currents in political researches	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLMU2_W13] Has advanced knowledge of the philosophy and ethics of politics.	Knows relations between ethics and politics	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLMU2_W08] Has an advanced knowledge of the mechanisms of social perception of politics.	Knows definitions of politics	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLMU2_W06] Has advanced knowledge of the threats and challenges facing politics, including the principles of creating and developing forms of individual entrepreneurship.	Is able to define politics	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[POLMU2_W04] Has an advanced knowledge of the mechanisms of functioning of political power.	Knows analytical models of political power	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[POLMU2_W03] Has advanced knowledge of various political theories and doctrines.	Knows main political theories	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLMU2_W01] Has advanced and structured knowledge of political science and its subdisciplines, as well as their mutual relationships.	Knows chosen contemporary political theory	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLMU2_U09] Is able to indicate the conditions for the evolution of political systems by properly selecting sources, critically assessing, analysing and synthesising them, creatively interpreting and transferring the acquired knowledge, using advanced information and communication techniques.	Knows what is political process	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLMU2_U11] Can use various research methods and techniques and shape and develop his/her own research workshop.	Knows methodological paradigms of researches in political sciences	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLMU2_K07] Is able to independently and critically supplement knowledge and skills extended by an interdisciplinary dimension.	Knows ontological and epistemological base of political researches	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLMU2_U04] Can identify real and hypothetical threats in the political space.	Knows theories of political conflicts	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLMU2_U02] Has the ability to analyze the mechanisms of political power.	Knows analytical models of political power	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLMU2_U01] Is able to describe and evaluate political life from the perspective of various theoretical and doctrinal approaches.	Is able to describe theoretical pluralism of political sciences	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[POLMU2_K02] Is aware of the level of his/her knowledge and skills, understands the need for continuous professional development and performs a self-assessment of his/her own competences determining his/her place and role on the labour market.	Knows definitions of political theory	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
	[POLMU2_K01] Is prepared to actively participate in the public and political life of the civil society at various levels of participation.	Knows what is political participation	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/report

Subject contents	Political theory as a subject of political science research. The concept of political theory. Philosophical and historical conditions of political theory. Positivist and contemporary interpretations of political theory. Political theory and philosophy, ideology and utopia. Theory and political practice. Theoretical pluralism in the social sciences contemporary theories of political structures Sociobiological interpretations of politics Biopolitics in the concept of Michel Foucault Elements of Bachrach and Baratz's theory of power Introduction to the theory of democracy by G. Sartori.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Knowledge issues on introduction to political science		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
		0.0%	30.0%
		0.0%	70.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	J. Nocoń, A Laska, Teoria polityki. Wprowadzenie, Warszawa 2010. K. von Beyme, Współczesne teorie polityczne, Warszawa 2005. Theory and Method in Political Science, ed. D. Marsh, G. Stoker, New York 2002. DeLue S. M., Political Thinking, Political Theory, and Civil Society, London 2016. Schumaker P. (ed.), 2010, The Political Theory Reader, New York 2010. Roberts P., Sutch P., An Introduction to Political Thought: A Conceptual Toolkit, Edinburgh 2012. P. Bachrach, M. S. Baratz, Two Faces of Power, The American Political Science Review, Vol. 56, No. 4 (Dec., 1962), pp. 947-952	

	Supplementary literature	Ozimek-Hanzlik M., Spory o polityczność: pomiędzy dyskursami naukowymi i ideologicznymi : studium teoriopolityczne, Opole 2023. Król M., Krótka historia myśli politycznej, Warszawa 2019. Lerner G, The Creation of Patriarchy, Oxford and New York 1986. Müller Jan-Werner, Przeciw demokracji. Idee polityczne XX wieku w Europie, Warszawa 2016. Scott J. C., The Art of Not Being Governed. An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia, New Haven 2009. Boron A. A., Embattled Legacy. Post-Marxism and the Social and Political Theory of Karl Marx, „Latin American Perspective 2000, Vol. 27. Colpani G., Two Theories of Hegemony: Stuart Hall and Ernesto Laclau in Conversation, „Political Theory 2021, Vol. 49. Lazzarato M., Nowa definicja pojęcia biopolityki, „Praktyka Teoretyczna 2011, nr 2-3. Lynteris C., The State as a Social Relation, „Anthropology & Materialism 2013, No. 1. Pietrzak E., Polityka, filozofii i Hannah Arendt. O koncepcji polityczności opartej na wielości, [w:] I. B. Kuźma, I. Desperak (red.), Kobiety niepokorne, Łódź 2015. Sahlins M., The original political society, [w:] Sahlins M., Graeber D., On Kings, Chicago 2017. Schubert K., Freedom as critique. Foucault beyond anarchism, „Philosophy & Social Criticism 2020, Vol. 47. Tucker E., Feminist Political Theory, [w:] Gibbons M. T., The Encyclopedia of Political Thought, New York 2015. Wolf E. R., Facing Power New Insights, New Questions, [w:] Wolf E. R., Pathways of Power. Building an Anthropology of the Modern World, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London 2001. Bryson V., Feminist Political Theory, London 2016. Foucault M., Narodziny biopolityki, Warszawa 2012. Mbembe A., Polityka wrogości. Nekropolityka, Warszawa 2018. Persram N. (ed.), 2007, Postcolonialism and Political Theory, Lanham 2007. Tormey S., Townshend J., Od teorii krytycznej do postmarksizmu, Warszawa 2010.
	eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	What is political theory? Ontological and epistemological positions in contemporary concepts of politics. Characterize the differences between the post-positivist and postmodern visions of social theory. Describe the criteria for dividing political theory. Politics in the light of the assumptions of neo-evolutionism. Political competition in the red queen model. Biological determinants of political behavior. Theoretical pluralism in the social sciences. Class and elitist concepts of political structure. Biopolitics in the concept of Michel Foucault. Asymmetry and feedback interaction of power according to Bachrach and Baratz. Axiological and institutional dimensions of democracy in the concept of G. Sartori.
Work placement	Not applicable

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