

## Subject card

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|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----|
| Subject name and code                       | From democracy to totalitarianism. Political regimes in the past and present - lecture, PG_00143152                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                     |                                                                              |            |     |
| Field of study                              | Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                     |                                                                              |            |     |
| Date of commencement of studies             | October 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                          | Academic year of realisation of subject                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                     | 2025/2026                                                                    |            |     |
| Education level                             | Bachelor's studies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                          | Subject group                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                     | Optional subject group                                                       |            |     |
| Mode of study                               | part-time studies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                          | Mode of delivery                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                     | at the university                                                            |            |     |
| Year of study                               | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                          | Language of instruction                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                     | Polish -                                                                     |            |     |
| Semester of study                           | 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                          | ECTS credits                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                     | 2.0                                                                          |            |     |
| Learning profile                            | academic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                          | Assessment form                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                     | credit                                                                       |            |     |
| Conducting unit                             | Department of History of Law -> Faculty of Law and Administration -> Rector                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                     |                                                                              |            |     |
| Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)    | Subject supervisor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                          | dr Jacek Waldoch                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                     |                                                                              |            |     |
|                                             | Teachers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                     |                                                                              |            |     |
| Lesson types                                | Lesson type                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Lecture                                                  | Tutorial                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Laboratory                          | Project                                                                      | Seminar    | SUM |
|                                             | Number of study hours                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 15.0                                                     | 0.0                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 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                          | The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the historical and contemporary evolution of political regimes - from democracy, through authoritarianism, to totalitarianism - taking into account their ideological, institutional and social foundations. The course aims to show how different forms of exercising power affect the functioning of the state, law, civil society and the individual. Particular emphasis will be placed on the analysis of the mechanisms of transition between regimes, the legitimization of power, the restriction of freedom and human rights, and contemporary threats to liberal democracy. |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                     |                                                                              |            |     |
| Learning outcomes                           | Course outcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                          | Subject outcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                     | Method of verification                                                       |            |     |
|                                             | [ADMINL3_WG01] At an advanced level, the student is able to define the sciences of law, administration, and politics, as well as knows the concepts and terminology appropriate to them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                          | Has in-depth knowledge of the basic categories and concepts used in political science, administration and law (such as: political regime, legitimization of power, the rule of law, totalitarianism, authoritarianism, liberal democracy). |                                     | [SW4] test/exam - oral or written<br>[SW2] presentation/project/paper/report |            |     |

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| Subject contents                | <p>Introduction to the Analysis of Political Regimes</p> <p>Definitions: political system, political regime, state system</p> <p>Classification criteria: forms of government, sources of legitimization, state-citizen relationship</p> <p>Democracy as a political system</p> <p>Direct and representative democracy</p> <p>Pillars of liberal democracy: rule of law, constitutionalism, pluralism, human rights</p> <p>Illiberal and hybrid democracies between freedom and control</p> <p>Origins and characteristics of authoritarian regimes</p> <p>Centralized power, restrictions on rights and freedoms, lack of accountability of rulers</p> <p>Models of authoritarianism: paternalistic, military, oligarchic</p> <p>Totalitarianism as a political and social phenomenon</p> <p>Features: total ideology, single-party system, social control and terror</p> <p>Totalitarianism of the 20th century: USSR (Stalinism), Third Reich, Italian fascism</p> <p>Tools of domination: propaganda, apparatus of repression, cult units</p> <p>Mechanisms of the collapse and transformation of regimes</p> <p>Democratization and autocratization processes</p> <p>Examples: Spain after Franco, Central and Eastern Europe after 1989, military regimes in South America</p> <p>Contemporary threats to democracy</p> <p>Populism, nationalism, disinformation</p> <p>Weakening the independence of courts, media and civic organizations</p> <p>Cases of "facade democracies" and the erosion of the rule of law</p> <p>21st century authoritarianism new forms of old mechanisms</p> <p>Russia, Turkey, Hungary, Belarus analysis of examples</p> <p>Digital authoritarianism and technological control of citizens (e.g. China)</p> <p>Law and administration in political regimes</p> <p>The role of the judiciary, legislation and administration in democracy and non-democratic regimes</p> <p>Law as an instrument of repression vs. Law as a Guarantee of Freedom</p> <p>Civil Society and Its Place in Different Systems</p> <p>Potential for Resistance, Mobilization, and Social Change</p> <p>NGOs, Media, Individuals Relations with the State in Different Models</p> <p>Summary: Why Do Democracies Fall?</p> <p>Historical and Contemporary Lessons</p> <p>The Role of Citizens, Elites, and Institutions in Maintaining or Dismantling the Democratic Order</p> |                   |                               |
| Prerequisites and co-requisites |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                   |                               |
| Assessment methods and criteria | Subject passing criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Passing threshold | Percentage of the final grade |
|                                 | score, quality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 51.0%             | 100.0%                        |
| Recommended reading             | <p>Basic literature</p> <p><b>Juan J. Linz</b>, <i>Totalitaryzm i autorytaryzm</i>, PWN klasyczna typologia reżimów niedemokratycznych</p> <p><b>Norberto Bobbio</b>, <i>Demokracja i jej krytycy</i>, Wydawnictwo Scholar analiza teorii i praktyki demokracji</p> <p><b>Hannah Arendt</b>, <i>Korzenie totalitaryzmu</i>, Świat Książki fundamentalne dzieło o istocie reżimów totalnych</p> <p><b>Giovanni Sartori</b>, <i>Teoria demokracji</i>, PWN teoretyczne podstawy demokracji liberalnej</p> <p><b>Fareed Zakaria</b>, <i>Przyszłość wolności. Demokracja nieliberalna w USA i na świecie</i>, Wydawnictwo Literackie o kryzysie demokracji liberalnej</p> <p><b>Adam Przeworski</b>, <i>Demokracja i rynek</i>, Wydawnictwo Znak transformacje ustrojowe i zależności między polityką a gospodarką</p> <p><b>Timothy Snyder</b>, <i>O tyranii. Dwadzieścia lekcji z XX wieku</i>, Znak krótki przewodnik po mechanizmach demontażu demokracji</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                   |                               |

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|                                                                | Supplementary literature | <p><b>Levitsky S., Ziblatt D.</b>, <i>Jak umierają demokracje</i>, Znak o erozji demokracji od wewnątrz</p> <p><b>Francis Fukuyama</b>, <i>Ład i upadek polityczny</i>, REBIS o instytucjach, rozpadzie ładu i populizmie</p> <p><b>Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger</b>, <i>System władzy. Rzesza niemiecka 1495-1806</i>, WUJ kontekst historyczno-instytucjonalny</p> <p><b>Anne Applebaum</b>, <i>Zachód zmęczony demokracją</i>, Agora refleksje o zmianach politycznych w Europie</p> <p><b>Wojciech Sadurski</b>, <i>Polska i Węgry kryzys liberalnej demokracji</i>, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar</p> <p><b>George Orwell</b>, <i>Rok 1984</i> jako lektura kulturowo-polityczna (reżim totalitarny w literaturze)</p> |
|                                                                | eResources addresses     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Example issues/<br>example questions/<br>tasks being completed | -                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Work placement                                                 | Not applicable           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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