HISTORY OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS:
Introductory course in Western constitutional history
Winter Semester of the Academic Year 2010/2011

RULES OF ASSESSMENT

1. The course takes the form of tutorials.
2. Pre-reading of texts and materials prepared by the lecturer and active participation in the classes is expected.
3. Written examination concluding the course, to be based on lectures; the textbook; and the selection of texts and materials is obligatory.
4. Further reading is recommended.

KEY PROBLEMS

1. Political institutions and working of state in the Antiquity:
   • Democracy in Ancient Greece
   • Roman Republic and Empire

Readings:

2. Fundamentals of Western Political systems in the Middle Ages:
   • Feudal system
   • The Crown
   • The Estates
   • Parliamentary assemblies
Readings:

*Magna Charta Libertatum – The Great Charter.*

Constitutional Developments in Poland 1180-1572.

3. Political institutions in the West in the Early Modern Age – rise of sovereign monarchy and nation-state:
   - Renaissance model of state
   - The influence of the Reformation – religious tolerance, human rights and sovereignty
   - *Monarchia mixta*, or mixed constitution in Poland and England
   - Classic model of absolute monarchy - France
   - Colonial dimension – Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, France and England

Readings:


*Elisabeth I's Golden Speech*


4. Political institutions of the Enlightenment era – competing models:
   • Enlightened absolute monarchy
   • Impact of the English, American and French Revolutions
   • Liberal state and bourgeois nation state

Readings:


The Petition of Rights 1628.

Habeas Corpus Act 1679.

English Bill of Rights 1689.

Act of Settlement 1700.

US Declaration of Independence 1776.

Constitution of the United States as Originally Adopted 1787.

US Bill of Rights 1791.

The Constitution of May 3rd, 1791.

Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen 1789.

The Constitution of France 1791.


5. Political institutions of the Modern Era (19th Century):
   • Post-absolute monarchy
   • Authoritarian regimes
   • Rise of Human and Civil Rights
   • Rise of modern nationalism
   • Evolution from liberal state to democratic state

Readings:


Amendments to the Constitution: Articles in addition to, and amendments of, the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the legislatures of the several states, pursuant to the Fifth Article of the original Constitution.
Abolition of the Negro Slave Trade Act 1807.
Repeal of Corporation and Test Acts 1828.
Catholic Emancipation Act 1829.
Reform Act of 1832.
Abolition of Negro Slavery Act 1833.
Reform Act of 1867.
Disestablishment of the Irish Church Act 1869.
The Ballot Act 1872.
Reform Act of 1884.
Third Redistribution of Parliamentary Seats Act 1885.
Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act 1918.
Parliament Act 1911.
Peerage Act 1963.
The Constitution of the German Reich 1871.

6. Political institutions in the West in the early 20th Century
   • Impact of the World War I: Triumph and fall of democracy in Europe of the Interwar Period:
     o Democratic regimes – Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia
     o Totalitarian regimes – Italy, Germany, Soviet Union
     o Authoritarian regimes – Poland, Hungary

Readings:
The Reich Constitution of 1919 (Weimar Constitution).
Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 1936.
The Nuremberg Laws on Citizenship and Race 1935.
First Supplementary Decree of November 14th, 1935.
The Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honour of September 15th, 1935.
7. **Political institutions in the West in the late 20th Century**
   - Impact of the World War II: Models of welfare-state democracy and feasible socialism on both sides of the Iron Curtain (1944-1990)
   - Impact of the Cold War: Transition of countries of Central and Eastern Europe

**Readings:**

*Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 1936.*

*Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of 1977.*

*Constitution of the German Democratic Republic of 1949.*

*Constitution of the German Democratic Republic of 1968.*

*Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany of 1949.*

*The Constitution of the Republic of Poland of 2nd April, 1997.*

8. **Political institutions in the West in the 21st Century**
   - Impact of the European Factor – the European integration and Nation-State

**Readings:**


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**BASIC LITERATURE**

**Textbook:**


2. Selection of texts and materials prepared by the lecturer.

**Further reading:**


(Chapter 6).
Journals:
32. JSTOR - available via webpage of the University of Warsaw Library: (Holdings – E-resources): http://www.buw.uw.edu.pl/en/

Internet databases:
33. Constitutions of the World from the late 18th Century to the Middle of the 19th Century Project: http://www.modern-constitutions.de
34. Internet History Sourcebooks Project: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/
35. Select e-publications of The Institute of Public Affairs (Instytut Spraw Publicznych) in English: http://www.isp.org.pl/?v=page&id=324&ln=eng
36. Select SEI Working Papers: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sei/1-4-10-1.html
37. The Online Library of Liberty: http://oll.libertyfund.org/