

Faculty of Social Sciences CJVA454 English for Political Science

Meeting Times: Monday: 16:00-17:40

Lecturer: Bc. Merve Aydin, M.B.A

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Course objectives

This course is intended for master's students of political science and related fields. The main focus of the seminar is on discussing current issues in Czech and world politics, based on watching videos concerning these issues and reading newspaper or journal articles. Great attention is also devoted to building vocabulary both from the field of political science and Academic English as such. The content of the course will be adjusted to students' needs and preferences discussed in the first two seminars.

Course Requirements

- 1) Given the seminar structure of the course, students are expected to attend all sessions (up to 2 unexcused absences), with exceptions stated by the Masaryk University Study and Examination Regulations.
- 2) Students are expected to do required readings/viewings for each lecture. The readings serve to initiate discussion but also to expand students' vocabulary and exposure to authentic English. Links to required readings can be found in the syllabus or under the Study Materials → Learning Materials folder in the Information System.
- 3) During the semester, students will be required to cooperate in the preparation of one weekly presentation on a topic of interest. You will be expected to give an approximately 10-15 minute presentation on a particular aspect of the weekly topic. In addition to the presentation

itself, the student should also include an interactive element (e.g. class debate, questions for discussion) in order to engage your classmates.

- Your presentation should be between **10 and 12 minutes long**, not including the time set aside for questions from your classmates at the end.
- You should do some internet research and find a current political topic from any governmental system in any country around the world. Then, write your name into the schedule of presentations that will be available in the next week as well as your political topic.
- **No one may do the same topic as another student, so picking topics is done on a "first come, first served" basis.**
- It should be a discussion-style presentation; that means that you should be asking your fellow students/audience questions as you're presenting.
- You should also make a visual aid (powerpoint, prezi, canva, whatever you choose) to be able to list key points, show interesting images, and write out the discussion questions for all to see.
- It should be 2-3 minutes introduction to the issues, 1-2 discussion questions, 2-3 minutes summarizing more specifics about the party history, 1-2 discussion questions, and so on.
- At the end, your presentation should have a references slide with all of your sources. These should be **in APA citation format** (you may not simply list URLs in a bulleted list). One of these sources must be in English.

4) Throughout the semester, students will be required to give "leads" (short introductions) to additional topics of their interest but relevant to the given weekly topic or region of interest. Each student will give 1 lead during the semester on a different week than the presentation. Max. 5 minutes, no PowerPoint. Registration for both tasks is first-come, first-served; max 2 students per week per task.

5) Students will also be required to write one summary+reflection of an article of their choice from an independent reading related to a given weekly topic, e.g. related to either the presentation or lead.

The paper should be submitted the same week as the presentation/lead. Max. 1 standard page, (1/3 summary + 2/3 critical discussion).

Attendance

For this class to function well, and to ensure that students are able to learn the maximum amount from the time spent together during the semester, students must understand that they should be present during the weekly seminar meetings. In total students are allowed to miss 2 classes out of those 11 weekly seminars without any penalty. If students miss more than 2 classes, then they will not be able to pass the course unless they obtain a doctor 's note (and present it to the study office so an omluvenka can be added to the attendance records).