

**French Politics - Presidential Election 2022**

**Lecturer:** Eszter-Petronella SOOS

Institute of Political Science (ELTE)

**The aim of the course**

The aim of this course is to help students to familiarize themselves with the most important actors and institutions of the French political system and to urge them to follow day-to-day French politics through the analytical lens of the political scientist and of the political analyst.

In three months, students will learn a practical and step-by-step method to analyze and understand current events. They will be able to put these events in a wider French context. At the end of the semester, students should know their way around French politics, not only by understanding current affairs, but also by being able to historically and culturally contextualize these current affairs.

**Attention!** Knowledge of the French and Hungarian languages is not necessary for students in order to successfully accomplish the course, but fluent English is a must.

**Structure**

The present course will provide students with 1) background information on French politics 2) knowledge on current affairs. The seminar also aims to 3) expand the debating skills of students by addressing conflicting social and political issues through debate simulations.

Between two classes, the lecturer will also share relevant information and news with students through a public twitter account: [@sooseszter](https://twitter.com/sooseszter). Students are required to read these materials and articles every week. According to recent observations, students are also active in sharing interesting news and analysis with each other.

**Evaluation**

Student performance will be assessed comprehensively. The final note will consist of three parts, according to the structure of the course itself:

1. Presence and participation in debates regarding current affairs (25% of the final note),
2. A test about the French political system based on readings and class discussions (25% of the final note),
3. Preparation of a written political analysis (50%),
4. Erasmus students will be required to submit an extra piece of work (to be discussed with the lecturer on a case by case basis).

**Attention!** Please note that no more than two absences are allowed during the semester. **Your written materials will be thoroughly verified by the use of online plagiarism checkers. Plagiarism automatically results in failure of the seminar regardless of your prior work and test results!**

**Indicative program**

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|  | Campaign / political analysis. Introduction. Discussion of the campaign. |
|  | Political parties and electoral strategies. Discussion of the campaign. |
|  | The French political system. Discussion of the campaign. |
|  | The 1958 constitution and its birth. Main modifications of the Constitution. Discussion of the campaign. |
|  | A brief introduction to the political history of the Fifth Republic. Discussion of the campaign. |
|  | The separation of the Church and the State in the French system. Discussion of the campaign. |
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**Workload of the class**

24x45 minutes of contact hours (2 hours / week, 12 weeks) + a minimum of 4x45 minutes of work at home hours (preparation for class and essay writing).