

**Political analysis in practice**

**The aim of the seminar**

The aim of this seminar is to help students to familiarize themselves with the most important concepts and problems of practical political analysis and to urge them to follow day-to-day 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. To sum up, they will surely be able to orient themselves as citizens and members of the City.

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

**Date**

Wednesday 6 P.M.

**Structure**

The present course will provide students with 1) the most important concepts and problems of political analysis 2) a practical method of analysis.

**Evaluation**

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

1. Presence and participation in debates regarding current affairs (60% of the final note),
2. Preparation of two written political analyses (40%),
3. 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**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Topic to discuss** |
| 1. | Introduction. The problem of “neutrality”. Academic theories, methods and their use in practical analysis. (Background readings distributed.) |
| 2. | Contemporary media consumption. The filter bubble. Handling multiple sources of information in practice. Relevance and curiosity: what is important? (practice). Source criticism (practice). |
| 3. | Media consumption – practice and discussion. |
| 4. | Readings: Nate SILVER: *The signal and the Noise*. |
| 5. | Readings: Philip TETLOCK et al.: *Superforecasting. The Art and Science of Prediction.* |
| 6. | Readings catch-up. |
| 7. | The process of analysis. |
| 8. | Practice: Analyzing a complex political issue. |
| 9. | Practice: Analyzing a complex political issue. |
| 10. | Practice: Analyzing a complex political issue. |
| 11. | Catch-up. |
| 12. | Summary. Closure of the semester. |

**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).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Eszter-Petronella SOÓS** |
|  | lecturer |