

## RTU Course "Political System of Latvia"

23101 null

**General data**

Code	HSP379
Course title	Political System of Latvia
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice
Responsible instructor	Gunārs Ozolzīle
Academic staff	Vineta Gobiņa Silvija Rēvele
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 2.0 Credit Points, 3.0 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV, EN
Annotation	The study course covers the structure and regularities of the functioning of the Latvian political system. Special attention is paid to certain institutes of the political system: the parliamentary system of government, elections, the party system and political culture. The history of the formation of the Latvian political system is considered.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	The aim of the study course is to improve students' knowledge of the Latvian political system in order to promote their participation in political processes. Tasks: 1. To acquaint students with the problems of functioning of the Latvian political system and the possibilities of reform. 2. To improve the ability to analyse the programmes of Latvian political parties and the actions of politicians in the prism of political ideologies.
Structure and tasks of independent studies	1. Special literature studies. 2. Preparation for discussions in seminars, exercises and diagnostic tests. 3. Preparation for tests.
Recommended literature	Obligātā/Obligatory: Apals G., Catlaks G., Ikstens J., Pabriks A., Sarma V. Politika Latvijā. - Rīga: Rasa ABC, 1999. Augstkalns U. Latvija Eiroatlantiskajā ceļā. - Rīga: RTU, 1998. Ikstens J. Politikas pamati. - Rīga: Zvaigzne ABC, 2001. U. Augstkalns. Latvija Apvienotajā Eiropā//Lekciju konспекти. - Rīga: RTU, 2005. U. Augstkalns. Latvijas politiskā sistēma.- Rīga: RTU, 2009. Politics of Latvia. Pieejams: <a href="https://latvia.eu/home/politics">https://latvia.eu/home/politics</a> Latvia: Country Profile. Pieejams: <a href="https://freedomhouse.org/country/latvia">https://freedomhouse.org/country/latvia</a> Papildu/Additional: Ozolzīle G. Pašvaldību vēlēšanas Latvijā: priekšvēlēšanu programmu analīze. Sabiedrība. Integrācija. Izglītība. Starptautiskās zinātniskās konferences materiāli, VI daļa. - Rēzekne: Rēzeknes Tehnoloģiju akadēmija, 2018. 412.-425. lpp. Ozolzīle G. Latvijas politiskās sistēmas leģitimitātes problēma. Sabiedrība. Integrācija. Izglītība. Starptautiskās zinātniskās konferences materiāli, IV daļa. - Rēzekne: Rēzeknes Tehnoloģiju akadēmija, 2017. 315.-329. lpp. Ozolzīle G. Valdīšanas sistēmas dizaina problēma Latvijā. RTU Zinātniskie raksti. Humanitārās un sociālās zinātnes, 27. sējums. - Rīga: RTU izdevniecība, 2017. 126.-147.lpp. Ozolzīle G. Prezidenta institūts Austrumeiropas valstīs un Latvijā. RTU Zinātniskie raksti (8 sērija: Humanitārās un sociālās zinātnes), 24. sējums - Rīga: RTU izdevniecība, 2015. 110.-115. lpp. Ozolzīle G. Latvijas vēlēšanu sistēmas reforma un Vācijas pieredze. RTU Zinātniskie raksti (8 sērija: Humanitārās un sociālās zinātnes), 22. sējums - Rīga: RTU izdevniecība, 2014. 69.-74. lpp.
Course prerequisites	The basic course of Latvia's history.

**Course contents**

Content	Full- and part-time intramural studies		Part time extramural studies	
	Contact Hours	Indep. work	Contact Hours	Indep. work
1. Power and politics. Development of political science in Latvia	4	4	1	8
2. The concept of political system. Genesis of the Latvian political system.	4	4	1	6
3. The structure and regularities of the functioning of the Latvian parliamentary system of government.	6	4	4	12
4. The electoral system in Latvia.	4	4	4	8
5. Theories explaining electoral behaviour and Saeima elections.	6	4	1	6
6. The party system in Latvia.	4	4	1	6
7. Political ideologies and the political spectrum of Latvia.	6	4	2	8
8. Formation of the democratic political culture in Latvia.	4	4	2	10
9. The final test.	2	8	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>64</b>

**Learning outcomes and assessment**

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Understands the regularities of Latvia's political process.	Discussions in seminars, exercises, diagnostic tests and tests.
Understands the specifics of the Latvian parliamentary system of government and is able to have a reasoned discussion about change of government in the country.	Discussions in seminars, exercises, diagnostic tests and tests.
Understands the specifics of the Latvian proportional electoral system and is able to argue about the change of the electoral system in Latvia.	Discussions in seminars, exercises, diagnostic tests and tests.
Is able to recognize and compare political ideologies. Is able to apply this knowledge in the analysis of the Latvian party system.	Discussions in seminars, exercises, diagnostic tests and tests.

***Evaluation criteria of study results***

Criterion	%
Activity in lecture and seminar discussions	15
Accomplishment of exercises	15
Success at accomplishing the diagnostic tests	20
Success at passing the final test	50
Total:	100

***Study subject structure***

Part	CP	Hours per Week			Tests		
		Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work
1.	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	*		