

Information list

University: Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts (BISLA)					
Faculty:					
Subject code: P/F - 400			Subject name: The Politics of Weakness		
Type, scope, and method of educational activities: Two weekly meetings of 90 minutes each, amounting 42 hours total. Every week, the first meeting takes the form of a lecture and the second, of a seminar. (full-time form)					
Number of credits: ECT					
Suggested semester: Autumn semester					
Level of studies: 1					
Conditional previous subjects: none					
Requirements for the course: Course evaluation (%): A – excellent: 100-93%, B – very good: 92-84%, C – good: 83-74%, D – satisfactory: 73-63%, E – sufficient: 62-51%, Fx – fail: 50-0%. Passing the course assumes that the student was not absent at more than 4 class sessions. Late arrival is marked as a “tardie”. Three tardies equal one absence. Missing more than 15 minutes of the class is considered an absence.					
Learning outcomes: Students will be introduced to power relations and their purported anomalies in the global world. Beyond the contemporary geopolitical challenges, they will learn how to reflect on the very nature of power. The course is also an opportunity to revisit or discover some classics (Machiavelli, Spinoza). This elective course connects to core courses (Political Thought, IR, and Political Geography).					
Brief outline of the course: First, we will examine the anomalies at work in contemporary power relations and list the topics to explore: new international conflicts, terrorism, cyberattacks, disinformation, migration, minorities, democracy, Europe, and the international liberal order. Second, we will build up the central concept of weakness as a form or an instrument of power (sharp power). Third, we will reread some classics to evaluate the novelty of this ‘power of the weak’ and see how past theories and experiences can shed light on these contemporary challenges.					
Recommended readings: Kishore Mahbubani: <i>Has the West Lost it? A Provocation</i> ; Bertrand Badie: <i>An Essay on the Power of Weakness</i> ; Hobbes: <i>Leviathan</i> ; Spinoza: <i>Ethics; Theological-Political Treatise</i> ; Machiavelli: <i>The Art of War</i> ; Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari: <i>A Thousand Plateaus</i> .					
Language of the course: English					
Notes: Elective Course					
Evaluation					
Total number of evaluated students:					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
(percentage of students who got A)	(percentage of students who got B)	(percentage of students who got C)	(percentage of students who got D)	(percentage of students who got E)	(percentage of students who got FX)
Instructor: Adam Bence Balazs					
Date of the last change:					
Approved: Prof. PhDr. František Novosád, CSc.					