

General Information			
Course name:	Political dimension of civil society	ECTS Credits	5
		Semester	Winter

### Aims

The course "*Political dimension of civil society*" pays attention to the phenomenon of civil society which presents distinguished interest in the present study of political systems. It examines the growing and changing position of civil society in modern democracies as well. The course defines various concepts and models of civil society from the political science point of view, emphasises the role of active citizenship and political participation in the process of public policy making and focuses on the role of social capital. The course is also focused on encouraging students to think critically in assessing the arguments. Students will be expected to take an active part in lively discussions during the consultations.

### Contents

1. Introduction to Political dimension of civil society - definition of term civil society, philosophical concept of civil society
2. Models of political participation
3. Limits and perspectives of civil society
4. Social capital by R. Putnam
5. Civil society in the USA - civil organizations by Alexis de Tocqueville
6. Civil society in Europe (chosen by agreement with student)
7. The weakness of civil society in Post-Communist Europe - causes and effects.

### Evaluation

Regular consultations and the elaboration and presentation of seminar work.

### Bibliography

1. Putnam, R. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, 2000
2. Edwards, M. *The Oxford Handbook of Civil Society*, 2013
3. Tocqueville, A. *Democracy in America*, 2000.