



Course title: HISTORY OF POLITICAL AND LEGAL SYSTEMS

ECTS credit allocation (and other scores): 5

Semester: spring

Level of study: ISCED-6 - first-cycle programmes (EQF-6)

Branch of science: Social sciences

Language: English

Number of hours per semester: 15

Course coordinator/ Department and e-mail: dr hab. Edyta Sokalska/Law and Administration  
Faculty/edyta.sokalska@uwm.edu.pl

Type of classes: classes

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#### Substantive content

CLASSES: Despotism - Introduction to the course. Main content and bibliography, methodology of the course, evaluation process. Eastern ancient despotism - a form of government, sources of law. The Code of Hammurabi, reforms of Urukagina, the Code of Ur-Nammu. Greek democracy and philosophers - the law of Twelve Tables, the historical division of roman law. Ancient Greek and Roman legal tradition and their influence on European law. Carolingian Empire. The origins of the German country. Medieval life- feudalism, custom as a form of higher law, medieval English law (Magna Carta Libertatum, the Domesday Book). British system of common law. Forms of government and sources of law in medieval Europe. The variety of the forms of absolute monarchy. Illuminism. The Code of Napoleon. The history of British parliament (Bill of Rights 1689), constitutional monarchy. The evolution of the American political and legal system. English influences on the American legal system. The Constitutional Convention and governmental structure of the United States provided for in the Constitution of 1787. Totalitarian systems- government mechanisms and sources of law. New democracies - development.

Learning purpose: The main goal of the course is to know and understand the roots and evolution of legal and political systems and administration of European countries and the United States of America.

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On completion of the study programme the graduate will gain:

Knowledge: Students know and understand the course of political and legal transformations in comparative context. Students broaden their knowledge concerning legal and political cultures.

Skills: Students are able to analyze and assess critically some political and legal institutions in selected European countries and in the USA.

Social Competencies: Students can see political and legal institutions in their social, political, and economical context. Students are conscious of the acquired knowledge.

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Basic literature:

1. B. Wauters, M. de Benito, *The History of Law in Europe: An Introduction*, Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, Northampton 2017;
2. H.P. Glenn, *Legal Tradition of the World*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 2000;
3. J.M. Kelly, *A Short History of Western Legal Theory*, Oxford University Press, Oxford 1992;
4. L.N. Gerston, *American Federalism. A Concise Introduction*, M. E. Sharpe, Armonak, New York 2007.

Supplementary literature:

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1. G. Mousourakis, *The Historical and Institutional Context of Roman Law*, Ashgate, Aldershot 2003;
2. W. Burnham, *Introduction to the Law and Legal System of the United States*, West Academic Publishing 2016;
3. R Lesaffer, *European Legal History: A Cultural and Political Perspective*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2009;
4. E. Sokalska, *Legal and Political Dimensions of American Federalism: Development and Interpretations*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warmińskiego-Mazurskiego w Olsztynie, Olsztyn 2018.

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The allocated number of ECTS points consists of: 5

Contact hours with an academic teacher: 1.5 hour every second week (15)

Student's independent work: 110 h (preparation for classes, preparation of individual presentation concerning the history of legal and political institutions of a chosen state, analysing the chosen legal texts)