

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Title of the course: | CZECH POLITICAL SYSTEM |
| Form of the study program: | present / daily |
| Type of the course: | 3IRES (obligatory) + Erasmus (free choice) |
| Position in the study plan: | summer semester |
| Form of the course: | lecture/seminar – 1/1 |
| Final examination: | written exam |
| Lecturer: | PhDr. Petr Just, Ph.D. (petr.just@mup.cz) Prof. PhDr. Vít Hloušek, Ph.D. (vít.hloušek@mup.cz) |

Aim of the course:

The aim of the course is to provide an analysis of the political system and political development of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic since 1918 up to today.

The first part of the course will look at the political development and political system during Czechoslovakia 1918-1992. It will focus on the politics of so called First Czechoslovak Republic, crisis of the First Czechoslovak Republic and rise of semi-authoritarian Second Republic and Slovak autonomy, so called Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and Slovak War State. Following lectures will deal with after World War II. development, so called Third Republic, rise of communist and their power takeover in February 1948, the politics under totalitarian regime, unsuccessful attempt to reform the system in 1968, normalization and Velvet Revolution. The last lecture in the historical part will deal with the period od 1989-1992 and the split of Czechoslovakia.

Second part of the course will focus on current Czech Republic, its development since it gained independence in 1993 and the main institutional pillars of the constitutional system. It will analyze the political, electoral and party system.

Study requirements and obligations:

There will be final written exam based on lectures, assigned compulsory readings and materials provided by the instructor. Exam will include both multiple choice questions and open questions requiring short answers. Student needs to score at least 50 % of points in order to pass the exam.

Structure of the course:

1. Introduction to the course + Foundation of Czechoslovakia and its geopolitical position after the World War I. (24 February 2025 – Dr. Just)
2. The First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1938): Constitutional system. (3 March 2025 – Dr. Just)
3. The First Czechoslovak Republic (1918-1938): Parties and party system. (10 + 17 March 2025 – Prof. Hloušek)
4. The Third Czechoslovak Republic (1945-1948) and Communism (1948-1989): Constitutional System. (24 March 2025 – Dr. Just)
5. The Third Czechoslovak Republic (1945-1948) and Communism (1948-1989): Parties and party system. (31 March 2025 – Prof. Hloušek)
6. Prague Spring (1968). Normalization (after 1969). (7 April 2025 – Prof. Hloušek)

7. Velvet Revolution and transition to democracy (after 1989). Split of Czechoslovakia (1992). (14 April 2025 – Dr. Just)
8. Czech Republic after 1993: Constitutional System. (21 + 28 April 2025 – Dr. Just)
9. Czech Republic after 1993: Parties and party system. (5 + 12 May 2025 – Prof. Hloušek)

Obligatory readings:

- Agnew, Hugh. **The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown**. Hoover Institution Press, 2004. Chapters 11-16, pages 175-331.
- Balík, Stanislav – Hloušek, Vít – Kopeček, Lubomír – Holzer, Jan – Pšeja, Pavel – Roberts, Andrew. **Czech Politics: From West to East and Back Again**. Opladen: Barbara Budrich Publishers, 2017. 278 pp. ISBN: 978-3-8474-0585-6.
- Calda, Miloš. **Constitution-Making in Post-Communist Countries: A Case of the Czech Republic**. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Political Science Association, Atlanta, GA: September 1999. Note: The paper is uploaded in the Student information system.
- Elster, Jon. **Transition, Constitution-Making and Separation in Czechoslovakia**. In: *European Journal of Sociology / Archives Europennes de Sociologie*, vol. 36, n. 1/1995, pages 105-134. Note: The article is uploaded in the Student information system.
- Evans, Geoffrey – Whitefield, Stephen. **The Structuring of Political Cleavages in Post-Communist Societies: the Case of the Czech Republic and Slovakia**. In: *Political Studies*, vol. XLVI, 1998, pages 115-139. Note: The article is uploaded in the Student information system.
- Hanley, Sean. **The Political Context of EU Accession in the Czech Republic**. 2002. Note: The study is uploaded in the Student information system.
- Havlík, Vlastimil – Lysek, Jakub. **The Czech 2021 General Election and Its Impact on the Party System**. In: *Czech Journal of Political Science*, vol. XXIX, no. 3, 2022, pages 225-238. Note: The article is uploaded in the Student information system.
- Hough, Dan. **Third Ways or New Ways? The Post-Communist Left in Central Europe**. In: *Political Quarterly*, 2005, pages 253-263. Note: The article is uploaded in the Student information system.
- Just, Petr – Charvát, Jakub. **Business -Firm Parties and the Czech Party System after 2010**. In: *Politics in Central Europe*, vol. 12, no. 3, pages 83-110. Note: The article is uploaded in the Student information system.
- Klíma, Michal. **A Hidden Silent Grand Coalition**. In: Dvořáková, Vladimíra (ed.). *Success of Failure? Ten Years After*. Praha: Česká společnost pro politické vědy – Slovenské združenie pre politické vedy, 1999. Pages 135-144.
- Klíma, Michal. **Consolidation and Stabilization of the Party System in the Czech Republic**. In: *Political Studies*, vol. XLVI, 1998, pages 492-510. Note: The article is uploaded in the Student information system.
- Kopeček, Lubomír – Šedo, Jakub. **Czech and Slovak political parties and their vision of European integration**. In: *Central European Political Science Review*, vol. V, n. 1, winter 2003. Note: The article is uploaded in the Student information system.

- Mansfeldová, Zdenka (ed.). **Relationship of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate.** Workshop Proceedings, Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, Prague, 14 June 2001.

Primary documents:

- **2000 Words Manifesto, 1968**
- **Brezhnev Doctrine, 1968**
- **Constitution of the Czech Republic, 1993**
- **Draft Thesis of the Program of the Civic Forum, 1989**
- **Eight Demands of Konrad Henlein Announced at Karlovy Vary, 1938 (The)**
- **Charter 77 Manifesto, 1977**
- **Law on the Founding of Czechoslovakia, 1918**
- **Munich Pact, 1938**
- **Opposition Agreement, 1998**
- **President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, 1918**
- **Report on the Adolf Hitler's Conversation With Konrad Henlein, the Leader of the Sudeten German Party, and Karl Hermann Frank, His Deputy, 1938**
- **Vienna Arbitration Award, 1938**
- **Visegrad Declaration, 1991**
- **Warsaw Pact, 1955**

(all documents can be accessed on several websites)

Recommended readings:

- Broklová, Eva. **Opinions of German Activist Parties in Czechoslovakia.** In: *Czech Sociological Review*, vol. 6, n. 2, pages 187-204. Note: The article can be downloaded here: <https://sreview.soc.cas.cz/pdfs/csr/1998/12/07.pdf>
- Hájek, Martin (ed.). **Hierarchy as the Strength and Weakness of Communist Rule.** Prague, Academy of Science, 2004 (working paper). Note: The paper can be downloaded here: <https://www.soc.cas.cz/sites/default/files/publikace/2004-10.pdf>