



French politics

- syllabus -

Autumn semester of the 2014/15 academic year

The aim of the course

The aim of this course is to help students to familiarize themselves with the most important actors and institutions of the French political system and to urge them to follow day-to-day French politics through the analytical lens of the political scientist. At the end of the semester, students should know their way around French politics, not only by understanding current affairs, but also by being able to historically and culturally contextualize these current affairs.

Attention! Knowledge of the French and Hungarian languages is not necessary for students in order to successfully accomplish the course, but fluent English is a must.

Date

Mondays 16 P.M.

Structure

The present course will provide students with 1) background information on French politics 2) knowledge on current affairs.

Between two meetings, the lecturer will also share relevant information and news with students through e-mail. According to recent observations, students are also active in sharing interesting news and analysis with each other. Moreover, the course will heavily rely on handouts created by

the lecturer.

Evaluation (general information for all students)

Student performance will be assessed comprehensively. The final note will consist of two parts, according to the structure of the course itself:

1. Presence and participation in debates regarding current affairs (50% of the final note),
2. A final test (50% of the final note).

Please note that no more than two absences are allowed during the semester.

Indicative program

	Topic to discuss
1.	Introduction. Actors and institutions of the French political system.
2.	The 1958 constitution and its birth. The main modifications of the constitution.
3.	Separation of power in the French system I.
4.	Presidents and governments. A brief introduction to the political history of the Fifth Republic I.
5.	Presidents and governments. A brief introduction to the political history of the Fifth Republic II.
6.	The Socialist Party (PS).
7.	The gaullist movement (UMP).
8.	Centrists, greens, communists, and their political organizations (MoDem, EELV, Front de Gauche, PCF etc.)
9.	The National Front (FN).
10.	The 2007 presidential campaign and its political consequences.
11.	The 2012 presidential campaign and its political consequences.
12.	Evaluation, final test.

Eszter-Petronella SOÓS
lecturer