



**Syllabus of the discipline**  
**«AMERICAN DEMOCRACY: POLITICS AND SOCIETY»**  
**Educational and professional program "Documentation and**  
**Information Activities"**  
**Specialty: 029 Information, Library and Archival**  
**Science. Field of knowledge: 02 Culture and Art**

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| <b>Level of higher education</b>               | Bachelor, Master   |
| <b>Discipline status</b>                       | Elective discipline  |
| <b>Year of study</b>                           | 1-5  |
| <b>Semester</b>                                | 1-2  |
| <b>ECTS credits / total hours</b>              | 4 credits/120 hours  |
| <b>Language of instruction</b>                 | English  |
| <b>What will be studied (subject of study)</b> | American political and social life.  |
| <b>Why study it? (Goal)</b>                    | Information of the American democratic system will expand students' knowledge of the functioning of effective political and social institutions, help them understand basic democratic principles in action, draw parallels between Ukrainian and American political traditions, and identify what can be adopted for the Ukrainian political and social life.   |
| <b>What can you learn (learning outcomes)</b>  | <p><b>Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comprehend key concepts and terms of American political, social, and cultural life;</li> <li>- Describe the evolution of the American political system from historical developments to its current effect on American society;</li> <li>- Comprehend the practices of American politics and the</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>relationship between various groups of interests;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluate the efficiency of the American national government and its role in national policymaking;</li> <li>- Develop a more discerning and critical view of political information presented in the media;</li> <li>- Understand the roots of various social problems related to ethnic and sexual minorities, immigrants, drugs, racism, etc.</li> <li>- Explore and understand power relationships in American politics, the impact of social change on different groups and on society in general, and its overall effect on American political, social, and cultural life.</li> <li>- Understand the impact of US domestic policy on its foreign policy, and to critically evaluate the United State's role in the world.</li> </ul> |
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| <b>Educational logistics (content)</b> | <p><b>Discipline content:</b> American Political Culture and American Character; British Legacy and the Constitution; Immigration: Pros and Con; Continuity and Change in the American Family; Women and Gender Issues in American society, Sports in American Culture, the Role of Religion in American Society, Status and Social Class, the Elites; Drugs and Alcohol: Uses and Abuses; Problems of the Health Care System; Society and Sexuality (Homosexuality, Gender Patterns, Prostitution, Pornography); the American System of Education; What Attracts Students to American Universities; the Criminal Justice System, Organized Crime, Aging and the Power of the Pensioners; Corporations, Government Growth and Power, the Rise and Decline of the Unions; Urban life and Suburban Change; the Demographic Transition; Racial and Ethnic Problems (Whites, Blacks, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans); Federalism, Social Movements and Minority Politics; Elections, the Media; the Culture of Entertainment, the Movie Industry (Hollywood); Political Parties and Interest Groups, Main Ideologies in US politics; Legislative Powers: Congress; Executive Powers: Presidency and Bureaucracy; Economy and Welfare Politics; National Security and Foreign Policy.</p> <p><b>Types of classes:</b> lectures, seminars<br/> <b>Teaching methods:</b> verbal, visual, practical<br/> <b>Forms of study:</b> full-time, distance</p> |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>                   | General knowledge of world history acquired in secondary school.   |
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| <b>Information Support</b>                     | <p>American textbooks and other literature in PDF format will be available to the course participants. Here are some of them:</p> <p>Tomas R. Dye. Politics in America. Textbook. 2022. (pdf)</p> <p>Mark Tyller. Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy. 2018. (pdf)</p> <p>James Wilson. American Government: Institutions and Policies. 2018. (pdf)</p> <p>William Domhoff. Who Rules America: Power, Politics, and Social Change. 2020 (pdf)</p> <p>Susan Ware. American Women’s History. A Very Short Introduction. 2020. (pdf)</p> <p>Michael Kranish. Trump Revealed. An American Journey of Ambition, Ego, Money, and Power. 2017. (pdf)</p> <p>Jim Cullen. Democratic Empire. The United States Since 1945. 2017. (pdf)</p> <p>Sandy Maisel. American Political Parties and Elections. 2021 (pdf)</p> <p>Joseph S. Nye Jr. The Paradox of American Power. 2003 (pdf)</p> <p>Samuel Huntington. Who Are We? The Challenges to America’s National Identity. 2004. (pdf)</p> <p>Douglas Stevenson. American Life and Institutions. 2016. (pdf)</p> <p>Luther Luedke. Making America: The Society and Culture of the United States. 2002. (pdf)</p> <p>John Palen. America: Social Problems for the Twenty-First Century. 2021. (pdf)</p> <p>Bruce W. Jentleson. American Foreign Policy: The Dynamics of Choice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. – Duke University, 2018. (pdf)</p> <p>Richard Haas. A World in Disarray: American Foreign Policy and the Crises of the Old Order. 2019. (pdf)</p> <p>Smith Rodney A. Money, Power &amp; Elections. – Baton Rouge: Louisiana University Press, 2016. (pdf).</p> <p>Clendinen Dudley. Out for Good: The Struggle to Build a Gay Rights Movement in America. – N.Y.: Simon &amp; Shuster, 1919. (pdf)</p> <p>Teachout Zephyr. Corruption in America. – Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014. (pdf).</p> <p>Cosling James J. Politics and the American Economy. – N.Y.: Addison Wesley Longman, Inc., 2020. (pdf)</p> |
| <b>Location and logistics</b>                  | Theoretical training classroom, projector   |
| <b>Semester control, examination technique</b> | Test  |
| <b>Department</b>                              | of Ukrainian language, history and information activities   |

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| <b>Faculty</b>                                | Faculty of Linguistics and Social Communications   |
| <b>Lecturer</b>                               | <b>SMOLNIKOV YURI</b><br><b>Position:</b> Associate Professor<br><b>Scientific degree:</b> PhD in History<br><b>Teacher profile:</b> <a href="http://www.lib.nau.edu.ua/praci/10651smolnikov.pdf">http://www.lib.nau.edu.ua/praci/10651smolnikov.pdf</a><br><b>Tel.:</b> (044)-406-73-00<br><b>E-mail:</b> ysmolnikov@nau.edu.ua<br><b>Office:</b> 8.608 |
| <b>Originality of the academic discipline</b> | Author's course, English is the language of instruction  |

Developed by

Yurii SMOLNIKOV

Head of the Department

Anastasia Sibruk