

## CONTEMPORARY ISSUES OF WORLD POLITICS

SEMINAR NTb21:2

Wednesday 8.15 am (room 115)

The seminar, a reading group type English language practice course, aims at practicing and improving English reading, presentation and discussion skills through articles selected from a variety of topics. Each week a pair of students is responsible for the topic, a (short) presentation and leading the discussion (everyone should only present once).

All details (on the topics, the one-page papers, the short presentation and the discussion) to be discussed on the first class. As the topics are, without exception, mutually agreed upon, this should be a great opportunity to engage with topics that students are anyway interested in. It will be fun!

Topics agreed upon in the first class (to be assigned to specific dates in the coming week):

- 1) Sept. 27 – The EU and the Trump presidency – Saule
- 2) Oct. 4 – Populism in the EU – Maria, Laura
- 3) Oct. 11 – Russian influence in the EU – Patrik, Péter, Bence (Bakos)
- 4) Oct. 18 – Trump and the Republican party – David, Janice
- 5) Oct. 25 – Latin America & US (Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, Columbia) – Kata, Bence, Mercédesz
- 6) Nov. 8 – North Korea – Tünde, Adél, Richárd
- 7) Nov. 15 – Turkey – Dorin, Alexandra
- 8) Nov. 22 – Ongoing conflicts in the Middle East – Tarik, Dominic
- 9) Nov. 29 – China's panda diplomacy – Lilla, Paul
- 10) Dec. 6 – Scandinavia – Eszter, Fruzsí
- 11) Dec. 13 – Climate change and renewables – Vanessa, Iasmim

**Grading:** active participation in class (assessment test and discussion), one kick-off presentation (critical assessment of the reading, its context and raising questions for discussion)

**For the first week: submit at least one (can be two or three) article(s) in your chosen topic. Check under 'Research Toolbox' for help on where to look for articles.**

**Goals:**

- Critical reading, understanding of English academic texts from various fields
- Ability to summarize the main arguments, present the thesis and its context
- Discuss the reading, clarify positions, and arguments, in English (written and oral)
- Formulate and defend a personal opinion

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