



## Front Page - OpEd

(Resource ID: 337)

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This teaching resource is allocated to following University:

**UET - European University of Tirana**

Institution:

**The European University of Tirana**

<http://www.sustainicum.at/en/modules/view/337.Front-Page-OpEd>



Group work



Less than 5  
students



up to 1 semester  
more than 1  
semester



Internet  
connection  
necessary



English, Shqip

Please note: module with excess length - more than  
7 lecture units required!



The teaching resource will be used for the students of the course of Political Parties and Electoral Systems. However, it is useful for other courses in social sciences since any subject, from International Relations, to Political Communication, Media and the like, could be the topics of the articles of OpEd. The students will be divided in groups of 4-5 people and invited to create the Front Page of a Magazine. The preparation of the Front Page will continue throughout the course of Political Parties and Electoral Systems. The aim of the project is to write on the Front Page and Opinion Editorials on political parties. The project will end up with a

competition among groups and the winner will have their Front Page published. The Teaching Resource will use the following method: - Problem Based Learning

Political Parties and Electoral Systems is a course taken by the students of the second year (BA) of Political Science. The course is divided into three parts: the first part deals with the functions and typology of political parties, the second part deals with the functions of electoral systems and how they are linked with political parties and the third part covers the typology of political parties and events in post- communist countries with a focus on Albania. The students have to analyse the dynamics of the political parties using the theoretical frameworks provided in the lessons. Problem Based Learning techniques are used to motivate the students to analyse the events and then they are supplied with theory in order to understand whether their previous analysis was solid and valid. The students have to analyse current events in the political space and prepare the OpEd of the Magazine. During the seminars the students will analyse the political parties' attitudes towards policy making, the laws these parties propose and the actions they take in the political sphere. The debate in the classroom will be organized around these topics. The Front Page will take a final shape at the end of the course. Based on the number of the students it is foreseen to have around 15 Front Pages. The students work will be exhibited in the hall of the University. During the exhibition, the students will have the opportunity to defend their work. An external committee will evaluate the students' products and arguments and will choose the winner. The best Front Page will be published.

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## Teaching Tools & Methods



Mini-project



Written material



Video



Simulation program



Simulation

## Integration of Social Stakeholders

Stakeholders are not directly involved in this resource. Nevertheless the teaching method addresses participation issues and allows students to explore the different roles of stakeholders (politicians, NGOs, political activists, lawyers) in relation to current political events. However, the project will culminate with an expo of OpEd, and in that case the representatives from the sphere of media and politics could participate.

Furthermore, stakeholders might be invited in one or two lectures to participate in a class discussion.

## Strength

- Students learn to work in team;
- Students learn to learn to solve real-life relevant problems
- Students practice and develop skills of listening, discussion and persuasion
- It encourages greater understanding taking the focus off rote learning
- Develops lifelong learning skills
- Promotes inter-disciplinarity

## Weakness

- The Problem Based Learning technique requires more time for both the learner and instructor
- Group dynamics issues may compromise the effectiveness of the method.
- For Instructors - creating relevant problem scenarios may be difficult, however this is not the case for the course of Political Parties and Electoral Systems.

## Learning Outcomes

- To reflect on the contemporaneity of the country.
- To develop creativity and skills to think independently
- To foster imagination
- To develop discussion and co-operation skills.

## Relevance for Sustainability

The students learn skills that allow them to think critically, to foster imagination and discuss controversial issues. In this way they don't learn things by heart but use logic and this is essential to achieve sustainable knowledge. At the same time the lesson becomes more 'entertaining' and less 'serious' and consequently the students enjoy it better.

## Related Teaching Resources

No specific previous knowledge / related resources required

## Preparation Efforts

Medium

## Preparation Efforts Description

The lecturer has to update the students with information with regard to political parties' activities and strategies in the post-communist period, so that students have the necessary information to write their OpEd.

## Access

Free

## Assessment

The students' assessment is divided into four parts. They prepare four course works, each equal to 25% of the final grade. The project will count as the final course work and will have the value of 25% of the final grade.

## Credit/Certification Description

NA

## Sources and Links

Krauss, J., Boss. S. (2013) Thinking Through Project-Based Learning: Guiding Deeper Inquiry. Sage Publications.

Central Election Commission: [www.cec.org.al](http://www.cec.org.al)

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance: [http://www.idea.int/db/countryview.cfm?id=7#Political Finance](http://www.idea.int/db/countryview.cfm?id=7#Political_Finance)

Qota Project: Global Database of Quotas for Women

Inter-Parliamentary Union: [http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/reports/2001\\_A.htm](http://www.ipu.org/parline-e/reports/2001_A.htm)

## Funded by

This teaching resource, realised within the project ConSus, has been funded with the support of the TEMPUS of the European Union. The contents reflect the views of the authors, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

