



Universität zu Köln

Comparing European Democracies

Draft Syllabus

Winter Semester 2017/2018

Tuesday, 12:00 - 13:30 (IBW, 211 Hörsaal H114)

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Office Hours: Wednesday 13:30-14:30 (by appointment)

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1. Course Description

This MA lecture introduces students to the comparative study of democracies in Europe. As political decisions in Europe are taken both in national capitals and in Brussels, this course will provide students with analytical frameworks that allow the comparative study of national and EU politics. The lecture will present students with a basic toolkit to study advanced democracies (including delegation models, the spatial model of politics, formal reasoning) and to understand both domestic and EU-level policy-making in Europe. In addition, the course will draw on cutting edge research from all areas of European politics. The goal of the lecture is not to cover a few European countries in depth, nor to survey as many facts as possible about Europe. Instead, the objective is to equip students with analytical tools to understand and examine contemporary developments and political puzzles that are of particular relevance to European democracies and to prepare them for advanced seminars at the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics on European politics, political representation, behavior, and institutions.

2. Course Objectives

- Become familiar with delegation and strategic models of politics in the study of European democracies
- Acquire in-depth knowledge of the political systems in Europe and the European Union
- Become familiar with different arguments in the study of European democracies, including the European Union

3. Prerequisites

A good knowledge of basic concepts and methods in political science is required. Students should be able to understand academic papers written in English language. Classroom discussion and the exam will be in English.

4. Course Requirements

Final exam on the last day of class.

5. Course Material

Readings will be available as electronic articles through Ilias.

6. Course Outline

Week 1 **Introduction and Course Overview**

October 10

Week 2 **Democratic Politics as Social Choice**

October 17

Readings:

- Shepsle, Kenneth. 2010. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions*, pp. 41-110
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Week 3 **Delegation, Representation, and Accountability**

October 24

Readings:

- Lupia, Arthur. 2003. "Delegation and its Perils", in *Delegation and Accountability in Parliamentary Democracies* (eds. Kaare Strom, Wolfgang C. Müller, and Torbjorn Bergman). Oxford University Press, chapter 2
 - Strom, Kaare. 2003. "Parliamentary Democracy and Delegation", in *Delegation and Accountability in Parliamentary Democracies* (eds. Kaare Strom, Wolfgang C. Müller, and Torbjorn Bergman). Oxford University Press, chapter 3
 - Kassim, Hussein, and Anand Menon. "The principal-agent approach and the study of the European Union: promise unfulfilled?" *Journal of European Public Policy* 10.1: 121-139.
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Week 4 **Electoral Systems and their Effects**

November 7

Readings:

- Clark, William Roberts, and Matt Golder. 2006. "Rehabilitating Duverger's theory: testing the mechanical and strategic modifying effects of electoral laws." *Comparative Political Studies* 39.6: 679-708.
 - Blais, Andre, and Marc Andre Bodet. 2006. "Does Proportional Representation Foster Closer Congruence Between Citizens and Policy Makers?" *Comparative Political Studies* 39: 1243-1262.
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Week 5 **Building Governments**

November 14

Readings:

- Strom, Kaare. 1984. "Minority Governments in Parliamentary Democracies: The Rationality of Non-Winning Cabinet Solutions." *Comparative Political Studies* 17:199- 227.
- Müller, Wolfgang. 2009. "Government Formation" In *Sage Handbook of Comparative Politics*

Day 6 **Policy-Making: Governments and Parliaments**

November 21

Readings:

- Tsebelis, George. 1995. "Decision Making in Political Systems: Veto Players in Presidentialism, Parliamentarism, Multicameralism and Multi-partyism", *British Journal of Political Science* 25: 289-325.
- Martin, Lanny W. and Vanberg, Georg. 2014. "Legislative Institutions and Coalition Government." In *Oxford Handbook for Legislative Studies*

Day 7 **Democracy in a Multilevel System: The European Union**

November 28

Readings:

- George Tsebelis. 2012. "From the European Convention to the Lisbon Agreement and Beyond: A Veto Players Analysis", in Finke et al. *Reforming the European Union: Realizing the Impossible*, Princeton University Press.
- Mair, Peter, and Jacques Thomassen. "Political representation and government in the European Union." *Journal of European Public Policy* 17.1 (2010): 20-35.
- Hobolt, Sara B., and James Tilley. 2014. "Who's in charge? How voters attribute responsibility in the European Union." *Comparative Political Studies* 47.6: 795-819.

Day 8 **Measuring Party Ideology**

December 5

Readings:

- Slapin, Jonathan B. and Sven-Oliver Proksch. 2014. “Words as Data: Content Analysis in Legislative Studies”, In S. Martin, T. Saalfeld, and K. Strom (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
 - Laver, Michael. 2014 “Measuring policy positions in political space.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 17: 207-223.
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Day 9 **Representing Citizens: Members of National Parliaments**

December 12

Readings:

- Andeweg, Rudy B. 2014. “Roles in Legislatures.” In: *Oxford Handbook of Legislative Politics*
 - Proksch, Sven-Oliver, and Jonathan B. Slapin. 2012. “Institutional foundations of legislative speech.” *American Journal of Political Science* 56.3: 520-537
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Day 10 **Representing Citizens: The European Parliament**

December 19

Readings:

- Hix, Simon, and Bjørn Høyland. 2013. “Empowerment of the European parliament.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 16: 171-189.
 - Christian B. Jensen, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. 2013. “Parliamentary Questions, Oversight, and National Opposition Status in the European Parliament”, *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 38(2): 259-282.
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Day 11 **Mainstream and Challenger Parties**

January 9

Readings:

- Bonnie Meguid. 2005. “Competition Between Unequals: The Role of Mainstream Party Strategy in Niche Party Success.” *American Political Science Review*, 99(3): 347-59.
 - Hobolt, Sara B., and James Tilley. 2016. “Fleeing the centre: the rise of challenger parties in the aftermath of the euro crisis.” *West European Politics* 39.5: 971-991.
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Day 12 **Elections in Europe**

January 16

Readings:

- de Vries, C. E. 2007. “Sleeping Giant: Fact or Fairytale?: How European Integration Affects National Elections.” *European Union Politics* 8(3): 363–85.
- Schmitt, Hermann, Sara Hobolt, and Sebastian Adrian Popa. 2015. “Does personalization increase turnout? Spitzenkandidaten in the 2014 European Parliament elections.” *European Union Politics* 16.3: 347-368.

Day 13 **Conclusion and Exam Review**

January 23

Day 14 **Exam**

January 30