

INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN POLITICS: Legislatures and Governments in Europe* Winter 2017/18

Wednesdays 14:00 – 15:30, Seminarraum S103, IBW Gebäude
6 ECTS

Instructor:

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Course Description

This course is designed for undergraduate students in social sciences. It introduces basic concepts and topics of parliamentary politics in European countries and the EU. At the end, students will know the fundamentals of government and coalition formation, government dissolution, and legislative behavior under various institutional settings. It can be coupled with other introductory courses on political institutions as stepping stones for more advanced ones on special topics.

*This is a preliminary syllabus subject to minor changes before the course starts.

Course Requirements

Grading will be composed of the following requirements:

- 1 **Final Paper (70%)**: Students must write a 3000-words research paper, to be handed in on **February 28, 2018, at 23:55 CET, by email to the instructor**. A list of references and appendices do not count towards the page limit. The topic must be related to contents covered in class. It should have an empirical component: for example, the analysis of how a specific theory we discussed can be applied to a country or government. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss the topic of their papers before the end of classes with tutors or the instructor. Papers should be written with 12 point font, double-spaced, and 2.5 cm margins.
- 2 **Final paper presentation (30%)**: In the last two weeks, students are required to present the design of their final paper. The presentation should include the topic, research question, theory, and (if applicable) data. This means: start thinking about your final paper early. The presentation should be no longer than 8 minutes. It is modeled after a conference panel. Students should provide constructive criticism and feedback to their colleagues. By the end of the fourth week, students should register themselves for a presentation slot. The link for registration will be sent by the instructor.

Points are converted to final grades as follows:

Points	Grade
100–95	1,0
94–90	1,3
89–85	1,7
84–80	2,0
79–75	2,3
74–70	2,7
69–65	3,0
64–60	3,3
59–55	3,7
54–50	4,0
49–0	5,0

Delay	Deduction
0–24 hours after deadline	20% penalty
24–48 hours after deadline	35% penalty
48–72 hours after deadline	50% penalty
> 72 hours after deadline	Not graded

Unexcused late submissions of final papers will be subject to grade deductions following the scale below:

Schedule

Week 1 (Oct 11): Introduction to the Course

Mandatory Reading:

Lijphart, A. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, 2nd edition. New Haven: Yale University Press. Introduction (pp. 1–8).

Week 2 (Oct 18): Unicameralism, Bicameralism, and Types of Executives in Europe

Mandatory reading:

Lijphart, A. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*, 2nd edition. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 11.

Additional:

Heller, W. B., and Branduse, D. M. 2014. The Politics of Bicameralism. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*, edited by S. Martin, T. Saalfeld, and K. Strøm. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 332–351.

Elgie, R. 2015. Heads of State in European Politics. In: *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*, edited by José M. Magone. London: Routledge, pp. 311–327.

Week 3 (Oct 25): Executive-legislative Relations

Mandatory Reading:

Saalfeld, T. 2015. Executive-legislative Relations in Europe. In: *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*, edited by José M. Magone. London: Routledge, pp. 346–365.

Week 4 (Nov 1): Public Holiday, no class

Week 5 (Nov 8): Coalitions and Government Formation

Mandatory reading:

Müller, W. C, T. Bergman, and Strøm. 2008. Coalition Theory and Cabinet Governance: An Introduction. In: *Cabinets and Coalition Bargaining: The Democratic Life Cycle in Western Europe*, edited by K. Strøm, W. C. Müller, and T. Bergman. Oxford: Oxford University Press: pp. 1–50 (esp. until p. 35).

Additional:

Döring, H., and J. Hellström. 2013. Who Gets into Government? Coalition Formation in European Democracies. *West European Politics* 36(4): 683–703.

Martin, L. W. and R. T. Stevenson. 2001. Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies. *American Journal of Political Science*, 45(1): 33–50.

Week 6 (Nov 15): Government Recruitment and Cabinet Formation

Mandatory reading:

Andeweg, R. B. 2000. Political Recruitment and Party Government. In: *The Nature of Party Government: a Comparative European Perspective*, edited by J. Blondel and M. Cotta. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 119–140.

Week 7 (Nov 22): Cabinet Survival and Termination

Mandatory reading:

Damgaard, E. 2008. Cabinet Termination. In: *Cabinets and Coalition Bargaining: The Democratic Life Cycle in Western Europe*, edited by K. Strøm, W. C. Müller, and T. Bergman. Oxford: Oxford University Press: pp. 301–326.

Additional reading:

Saalfeld, T. 2008. Institutions, Chances, and Choices: The Dynamics of Cabinet Survival. In: *Cabinets and Coalition Bargaining: The Democratic Life Cycle in Western Europe*, edited by K. Strøm, W. C. Müller, and T. Bergman. Oxford: Oxford University Press: pp. 327–368.

Week 8 (Nov 29): Coalitions in the European Parliament

Mandatory reading:

Hix, S., Noury, A., and Roland, G. 2005. Power to the Parties: Cohesion and Competition in the European Parliament, 1979–2001. *British Journal of Political Science* 35(2): 209–234.

Additional:

Kreppel, A., and Tsebelis, G. 1999. Coalition Formation in the European Parliament. *Comparative Political Studies* 32(8): 933–966.

Cherepnalkoski, D., Karpf, A., Mozetič, I., and Grčar, M. 2016. Cohesion and Coalition Formation in the European Parliament: Roll-Call Votes and Twitter Activities. *PLoS ONE* 11(11): e0166586. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0166586>.

Week 9 (Dec 06): Party Discipline

Mandatory reading:

Bowler, S., D. M. Farrell, and R. S. Katz. 1999. Party Cohesion, Party Discipline, and Parliaments. In: *Party Discipline and Parliamentary Government*, edited by S. Bowler, D. M. Farrell, and R. S. Katz. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, pp. 3–22.

Additional:

Kam, C. J. 2009. *Party Discipline and Parliamentary Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1–17.

Week 10 (Dec 13): Agenda-Setting

Mandatory reading:

Rasch, B. E. 2014. Institutional Foundations of Legislative Agenda-Setting. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*, edited by S. Martin, T. Saalfeld, and K. Strøm. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 455–480.

Week 11 (Dec 20): Interest Groups and Lobbying in National Parliaments and the EU

Mandatory readings:

Binderkrantz, A. S. 2014. Legislatures, Lobbying, and Interest Groups. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*, edited by S. Martin, T. Saalfeld, and K. Strøm. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 526–542.

Greenwood, J. 2015. Interest Groups and Patterns of Lobbying in Brussels. In: *Routledge Handbook of European Politics*, edited by José M. Magone. London: Routledge, pp. 793–805.

Week 12 (Jan 10): Tools for Studying Parliaments I: Text Analysis and Roll-call Data

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Last updated: July 25, 2017

**Week 13 (Jan 17): Tools for Studying Parliaments II: Web-scraping and
Data Visualization**

TBD

Weeks 14 – 15 (Jan 24, 31): Student Presentations