

Comparing European Democracies

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Winter Term 2022/23

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 16-17:30 (register via e-mail)

Class Hours: Tuesdays 12-13:30

Overview

This course introduces students to the comparative study of European politics. As political decisions in Europe are taken both in national capitals and in Brussels, this course will provide students with analytical frameworks to understand both domestic and supranational politics in Europe. The lecture will present students with a basic toolkit to study advanced democracies (including delegation models, the spatial model of politics, formal reasoning). 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 on European politics, political representation, behavior, and institutions.

Course Objectives

Successful students:

1. Become familiar with delegation and strategic models of politics in the study of European democracies
2. Acquire in-depth knowledge of the political systems in Europe and the European Union
3. Become familiar with contemporary challenges in the study of European democracies, including the European Union.
4. Learn about key datasets in the study of European politics.

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of concepts and methods in political science is required. Students should be able to understand academic papers written in English. Lectures and the exam will be in English.

Course Structure

Class Structure

The course will be taught in person on Tuesdays from 12:00 to 13:30. While the course is designed as a lecture, it is required to do the readings in order to be able to follow the course. Class discussion on the content of the lecture is encouraged and students can always come forward with questions during the lecture. All materials will be provided on ILIAS, where students will also find an online forum for their questions/discussion and a weekly recap survey (see below).

Course Materials

The course will be based around the textbook "Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach" by De Vries, Hobolt, Proksch and Slapin. The book is available in the University Library, both for borrowing and in-house reading. The book can also be accessed online from the university network or the VPN (linked on ILIAS). Links to journal articles will be on Ilias as well (make sure to connect via the university VPN). Both the book chapters and the journal articles are relevant for the lectures and the exam. For some weeks, podcasts or other supplementary material are provided on ILIAS. While these are not directly relevant for the final exam, they will help to get a deeper understanding of the models and empirical applications discussed in class.

Weekly survey and bonus points

Every week you will find a link to a survey on the current topic of the week on ILIAS. The participation in this survey is voluntary and anonymous. By regularly participating in the survey you have the opportunity to earn bonus points. Bonus points will be credited towards the final exam in February 2022 only if you pass the final exam. You are able to receive the top grade (1.0) on the exam without any bonus points. Details about the bonus points will be communicated at the beginning of the course.

Final Exam

The final exam will take place as an in-person exam in the last session of the semester (tbc). Students are able to receive 60 points on the exam (60 minutes). Exam registration is separate from course registration. The structure of the exam will be communicated during class.

Course schedule

The schedule may be subject to change. The newest version of the Syllabus can always be found on ILIAS.

Week 1, 11 October: Introduction and Course Overview

Reading:

- Chapter 1 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021

Week 2, 18 October: Modelling Democratic Politics

Reading:

- Chapter 2 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021

Week 3, 25 October: Multilevel Politics in Europe

Readings:

- Chapter 3 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021
- Hooghe, Liesbet, and Gary Marks. "Grand Theories of European Integration in the Twenty-First Century." *Journal of European Public Policy*, vol. 26, no. 8, Aug. 2019, pp. 1113–33, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2019.1569711>.

01 November: no class

Week 4, 08 November: Ideology

Readings:

- Chapter 4 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021
- Hooghe, Liesbet, and Gary Marks. "Cleavage Theory Meets Europe's Crises: Lipset, Rokkan, and the Transnational Cleavage." *Journal of European Public Policy*, vol. 25, no. 1, Jan. 2018, pp. 109–35, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2017.1310279>.

Week 5, 15 November: Voting

Readings:

- Chapter 5 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021
- Schulte-Cloos, Julia. "Do European Parliament Elections Foster Challenger Parties' Success on the National Level?" *European Union Politics*, vol. 19, no. 3, 2018, pp. 408–26, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1465116518773486>.

Week 6, 22 November: Electoral Systems and Direct Democracy

Readings:

- Chapter 6 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021
- Hainmueller, Jens, and Dominik Hangartner. "Does Direct Democracy Hurt Immigrant Minorities? Evidence from Naturalization Decisions in Switzerland." *American Journal of Political Science*, vol. 63, no. 3, 2019, pp. 530–47, <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12433>.

Week 7, 29 November: Representation

Readings:

- Chapter 7 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021
- Bloemraad, Irene. "Accessing the Corridors of Power: Puzzles and Pathways to Understanding Minority Representation." *West European Politics*, vol. 36, no. 3, May 2013, pp. 652–70, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402382.2013.773733>.

Week 8, 06 December: Political Parties

Readings:

- Chapter 8 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021
- Chapter 1 in De Vries, Catherine E., and Sara B. Hobolt. *Political Entrepreneurs: The Rise of Challenger Parties in Europe*. Princeton University Press, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvt9k3d3>.

Week 9, 13 December: Party Competition

Readings:

- Chapter 9 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021
- Meguid, Bonnie M. "Competition Between Unequals: The Role of Mainstream Party Strategy in Niche Party Success." *American Political Science Review*, vol. 99, no. 3, Aug. 2005, pp. 347–59, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055405051701>.

Week 10, 20 December: Political Systems and Government Formation

Readings:

- Chapter 10 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021
- Klüver, Heike, and Jae-Jae Spoon. "Helping or Hurting? How Governing as a Junior Coalition Partner Influences Electoral Outcomes." *The Journal of Politics*, vol. 82, no. 4, Oct. 2020, pp. 1231–42, <https://doi.org/10.1086/708239>.

Week 11, 10 January: Making Laws: Governments and Parliaments

Readings:

- Chapter 11 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021
- Martin, Lanny W., and Georg Vanberg. "Coalition Government, Legislative Institutions, and Public Policy in Parliamentary Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science*, vol. 64, no. 2, 2020, pp. 325–40, <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12453>.

Week 12, 17 January: Modes of Governance and Policy Outcomes in Europe

Readings:

- Chapter 12 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021
- Zaun, Natascha, and Ariadna Ripoll Servent. "Perpetuating Crisis as a Supply Strategy: The Role of (Nativist) Populist Governments in EU Policymaking on Refugee Distribution." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, vol. n/a, no. n/a, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.13416>. Accessed 16 Sept. 2022.

Week 13, 24 January: Judicial Politics and the Rule of Law

Readings:

- Chapter 13 in Catherine E. De Vries, Sara B. Hobolt, Sven-Oliver Proksch, and Jonathan B. Slapin. *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2021
- Kelemen, R. Daniel. "The European Union's Authoritarian Equilibrium." *Journal of European Public Policy*, vol. 27, no. 3, Mar. 2020, pp. 481–99, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2020.1712455>.

Week 14, 31 January: FINAL EXAM

Details to follow