

Comparing European Democracies

Instructor: Jens Wäckerle

Time: Tuesday 12:00-13:30

Room: 211 Hörsaal H112

First Session: 10 October 2023

Email

jens.waeckerle@uni-koeln.de

Office hours

Monday 10:00-12:00 (starting 11. September, 2023). Book through this link:

https://calendly.com/cccp_chair_european_politics/office_jw

Office

IBW Building, Herbert-Lewin-Str. 2

Registration

Registration for the course and the exam separately in KLIPS2.

Please also regularly check the CCCP information on teaching:

<http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de/en/public/teaching/>

Course description

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.

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 January 2024 only if you pass the final exam. You are able to receive the maximum points (60) 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.

Total number of points and final grade

Points	Grade
0 - 29,5	5,0
30 - 32,5	4,0
33 - 35,5	3,7
36 - 38,5	3,3
39 - 41,5	3,0
42 - 44,5	2,7

45 - 47,5	2,3
48 - 50,5	2,0
51 - 53,5	1,7
54 - 56,5	1,3
57 - 60	1,0

Schedule

Week 1 (10.10.2023): Introduction and Course Overview

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 1)**

Week 2 (17.10.2023): Modelling Democratic Politics

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 2)**

Week 3 (24.10.2023): Multilevel Politics in Europe

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 3)**
- Winzen, T., & Schimmelfennig, F. (2016). Explaining differentiation in European Union treaties. *European Union Politics*, 17(4), 616-637.

Week 4 (31.10.2023): Ideology

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 4)**
- Hooghe, L., & Marks, G. (2018). Cleavage theory meets Europe's crises: Lipset, Rokkan, and the transnational cleavage. *Journal of European public policy*, 25(1), 109-135.

Week 5 (07.11.2023): Voting

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 5)**
- Schulte-Cloos, J. (2018). Do European Parliament elections foster challenger parties' success on the national level?. *European Union Politics*, 19(3), 408-426.

Week 6 (14.11.2023): Electoral Systems and Direct Democracy

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 6)**
- Hainmueller, J., & Hangartner, D. (2019). Does direct democracy hurt immigrant minorities? Evidence from naturalization decisions in Switzerland. *American Journal of Political Science*, 63(3), 530-547.

Week 7 (21.11.2023): Representation

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 7)**
- Pilet, J. B., Sheffer, L., Helfer, L., Varone, F., Vliegenthart, R., & Walgrave, S. (2023). Do Politicians Outside the United States Also Think Voters Are More Conservative than They Really Are?. *American Political Science Review*, 1-9.

Week 8 (28.11.2023): Political Parties

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 8)**
- De Vries, C. E., & Hobolt, S. B. (2020). *Political Entrepreneurs: The Rise of Challenger Parties in Europe*. Princeton University Press. **(Chapter 1)**

Week 9 (05.12.2023): Party Competition

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 9)**
- Meguid, B. M. (2005). Competition between unequals: The role of mainstream party strategy in niche party success. *American political science review*, 99(3), 347-359.

Week 10 (12.12.2023): Political Systems and Government Formation

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 10)**
- Klüver, H., & Spoon, J. J. (2020). Helping or hurting? How governing as a junior coalition partner influences electoral outcomes. *The Journal of Politics*, 82(4), 1231-1242.

Week 11 (19.12.2023): Making Laws: Governments and Parliaments

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 11)**
- Martin, L. W., & Vanberg, G. (2020). Coalition government, legislative institutions, and public policy in parliamentary democracies. *American Journal of Political Science*, 64(2), 325-340.

Week 12 (09.01.2024): Modes of Governance and Policy Outcomes in Europe

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 12)**

- Engler, S., Brunner, P., Loviat, R., Abou-Chadi, T., Leemann, L., Glaser, A., & Kübler, D. (2021). Democracy in times of the pandemic: explaining the variation of COVID-19 policies across European democracies. *West European Politics*, 44(5-6), 1077-1102.

Week 13 (16.01.2024): Judicial Politics and the Rule of Law

- De Vries, C. E., Hobolt, S. B., Proksch, S. O., & Slapin, J. B. (2021). *Foundations of European politics: a comparative approach*. Oxford University Press. **(Chapter 13)**
- Kelemen, R. D. (2020). The European Union's authoritarian equilibrium. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 27(3), 481-499.

Week 14 (23.01.2024): Migration Politics

- Zaun, N. (2022). Fence-sitters no more: Southern and Central Eastern European Member States' role in the deadlock of the CEAS reform. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 29(2), 196-217.
- Zaun, N., & Ripoll Servent, A. (2023). Perpetuating crisis as a supply strategy: The role of (nativist) populist governments in EU policymaking on refugee distribution. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 61(3), 653-672.

Week 15 (30.01.2024): Exam