

## **Comparative Government: Political Institutions and the Political Process**

### **Lecture Spring term**

Master of Arts (M.A.) Political Science ('Basismodul' Comparative Politics)  
Recommended for students in the second semester

SWS: 2  
ECTS credit points: 8

### **Overview**

This lecture gives an overview of selected theoretical concepts and the main research findings in the field of Comparative Government, specifically focusing on the role of political institutions and their impact for political decision-making at all stages in the political process. The course introduces a number of core themes in the comparative study of political institutions, such as the design of constitutions and their consequences as well as electoral institutions and their effects on turnout and voting behaviour. In addition, the lecture sheds light on the impact of different institutional designs on patterns of party competition, government formation and coalition governance. In a third step, we discuss the effects of political institutions on various aspects of legislative behaviour.

### **Course requirements and details**

- Certificate by written examination.



**Session 5**                    **Party competition and election campaigns**

- Abou-Chadi, Tarik, and Markus Wagner. 2019. "The electoral appeal of party strategies in postindustrial societies: When can the mainstream left succeed?" *The Journal of Politics* 81(4): 1405-1419.
- Benedetto, Giacomo, Simon Hix, and Nicola Mastrorocco. 2020. "The rise and fall of social democracy, 1918–2017." *American Political Science Review* 114(3): 928-939.
- Baumann, Markus, Marc Debus, and Martin Gross. 2021. "Strategic issue emphasis in parties' election campaign statements." *Party Politics* 27(3): 515-527.

**Session 6**                    **Government formation**

- Martin, Lanny, and Randolph Stevenson. 2001. "Government Formation in Parliamentary Democracies." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(1): 33-50.

**Session 7**                    **Government formation duration and government survival**

- Ecker, Alejandro, and Thomas M. Meyer. 2015. "The duration of government formation processes in Europe." *Research & Politics* 2(4): 10.1177/2053168015622796.
- Saalfeld, Thomas. 2008. "Intra-party conflict and cabinet survival in 17 West European democracies, 1945–1999." In: *Intra-party politics and coalition governments*, edited by Kenneth Benoit and Daniela Giannetti. Routledge: 185-202.

**Session 7**                    **Portfolio allocation and ministerial selection**

- Ecker, Alejandro, Thomas M. Meyer, and Wolfgang C. Müller. 2015. "The distribution of individual cabinet positions in coalition governments: A sequential approach." *European Journal of Political Research* 54(4): 802-818.

**Session 8**                    **Cabinet structure and ministerial organisation**

- Sieberer, Ulrich, Thomas M. Meyer, Hanna Bäck, Andrea Ceron, Albert Falcó-Gimeno, Isabelle Guinaudeau, Martin Ejnar Hansen, Kristoffer Kolltveit, Tom Louwerse, Wolfgang C. Müller, and Thomas Persson. 2021. "The political dynamics of portfolio design in European democracies." *British Journal of Political Science* 51(2): 772-787.

### **Session 9                      Coalitions and cabinet governance**

- Müller, Wolfgang C., and Kaare Strøm. 2008. "Coalition Agreements and Cabinet Governance." In: *Cabinet Governance: Bargaining and the Cycle of Democratic Politics*, edited by Kaare Strøm, Wolfgang C. Müller, and Torbjörn Bergman. Oxford University Press: 161-199.
- Krauss, Svenja, and Heike Kluever. 2022. "Cabinet formation and coalition governance: The effect of portfolio allocation on coalition agreements." *Government and Opposition*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1017/gov.2021.68>.
- Klüver, Heike, and Hanna Bäck. 2019. "Coalition agreements, issue attention, and cabinet governance." *Comparative Political Studies* 52(13-14): 1995-2031.

### **Session 10                      Comparative legislatures I: Legislative organisation**

- Sieberer, Ulrich. 2011. "The Institutional Power of Western European Parliaments. A Multidimensional Analysis." *West European Politics* 34(4): 731-754.
- Martínez-Cantó, Javier, Christian Breunig and Laura Chaqués-Bonafont. 2022. Foxes and Hedgehogs in Legislatures: Why Do Some MPs Become Policy Specialists and Others Generalists? *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1111/lsq.12412>.

### **Session 11                      Comparative legislatures II: Parliamentary speechmaking**

- Proksch, Sven-Oliver, and Jonathan B. Slapin. 2012. "Institutional Foundations of Legislative Speech." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(3): 520-537.
- Bäck, Hanna, Marc Debus, and Jorge M. Fernandes. 2021. "Unpacking comparative patterns in legislative debates." In: *The Politics of Legislative Debates*, edited by Hanna Bäck, Marc Debus and Jorge M. Fernandes. Oxford University Press: 825-850.

### **Session 12                      Comparative legislatures III: MP characteristics and legislative behaviour**

- Bäck, Hanna, and Marc Debus. 2019. "When do Women Speak? A Comparative Analysis of the Role of Gender in Legislative Debates." *Political Studies* 67(3): 576-596.
- Wäckerle, Jens, and Bruno Castanho Silva. 2023. Distinctive Voices: Political Speech, Rhetoric and the Substantive Representation of Women in European Parliaments. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, online first: <https://doi.org/10.1111/lsq.12410>.