Elective course for PhD students at CGS and IMPRS, Hauptseminar for MA students.

Course description:

This course is gives an overview of current topics in the field of party system research and its intersections with electoral system research. This way, students should get an idea how research questions might look like if they plan to do a thesis in this area.

Logistics:

Students are expected to:

• attend classes on a regular basis
• actively contribute to class discussions
• complete assigned readings according to schedule
• write a term paper of 15 pages in length, handed in on 10 September 2016 (late assignments will be penalized, unless prior arrangements are made!)
• (be prepared to) give a short presentation in one of the classes scheduled for July on their planned term paper.

Since nearly all reading assignments are in English, this will be the general classroom language as well. Participants therefore must know enough English to be able to participate actively. Perfection is not required – you just need to understand and make yourself understood.

Reading assignments:

The required texts will be made available to participants according to a procedure which will be announced in the first course meeting.

Course schedule:

12 April Introduction

I will give a very short overview of things you (should have) heard about in BA level courses:

- What is a party system?
- What is an electoral system?
- Quantitative and typological approaches to analyzing party system stability and change.
- Sociological and institutional approaches to studying the party system–electoral system interrelation.
19 April  

**Stability and Change of Party Systems**


3 May  

**Cartel Party Thesis and Party-State Relations**


10 May  

**New Parties and the Niche Party Thesis**


24 May  

Do Electoral Systems Structure Party Systems or Is It the Other Way Round?


31 May  

**Parties and their Representatives: Do MPs become more Independent?**


7 June  

**Contamination Effects in Mixed Electoral Systems**


14 June  

**Party Votes and Coalition Preferences**

21 June  
**The Effects of Electoral System Change on Party System Stability**


28 June  
**Do Party Systems in Eastern Europe Stabilize?**


5 July  
**Towards A European Party System?**


12 July  
Presentation of Term Paper Projects I

19 July  
Presentation of Term Paper Projects II