

# Comparing European Democracies

Jens Wäckerle

Winter Term 2021/2022

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Office Hours: On request (email).

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## 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

- Become familiar with delegation and strategic models of politics in the study of European democracies
- Acquire in-depth knowledge of the political systems in Europe and the European Union
- Become familiar with different arguments in the study of European democracies, including the European Union

## Prerequisites

A 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

The course will be taught in-person (if the pandemic situation permits) on XXX from XXX to XXX. 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).

## Examination

If the pandemic situation permits, the final exam will take place as an in-person exam at the end of the semester. The date will be communicated during the semester. Students are able to receive 60 points on the exam (60 minutes). Exam registration is separate from course registration. If the pandemic situation does not permit an in-person exam, the exam will be held online.

## Bonuspoints

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. 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 and 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.

## 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. 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.

## Course Outline

### Week 1: Introduction and Course Overview - October 12, 2021

#### *Readings*

- 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

## **Week 2: Modelling Democratic Politics - October 19, 2021**

### *Readings*

- 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 2

## **Week 3: Multilevel Politics in Europe - October 26, 2021**

### *Readings*

- 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 3
- Thomas Winzen and Frank Schimmelfennig. Explaining differentiation in European Union treaties. *European Union Politics*, 17(4):616–637, 2016. URL <https://doi.org/10.1177/1465116516640386>

## **Week 4: Ideology - November 2, 2021**

### *Readings*

- 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 4
- Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks. Cleavage theory meets Europe’s crises: Lipset, Rokkan, and the transnational cleavage. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25(1):109–135, 2018. URL <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2017.1310279>

## **Week 5: Voting - November 9, 2021**

### *Readings*

- 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 5
- Sara B. Hobolt, Jae-Jae Spoon, and James Tilley. A vote against Europe? Explaining defection at the 1999 and 2004 European Parliament elections. *British Journal of Political Science*, 39(1): 93–115, 2009. URL <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123408000422>

## **Week 6: Electoral Systems and Direct Democracy - November 16, 2021**

### *Readings*

- 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 6

- Julia Schulte-Cloos. Do European Parliament elections foster challenger parties' success on the national level? *European Union Politics*, 19(3):408–426, 2018. doi: 10.1177/1465116518773486. URL <https://doi.org/10.1177/1465116518773486>
- Jens Hainmueller and Dominik Hangartner. Does direct democracy hurt immigrant minorities? Evidence from naturalization decisions in Switzerland. *American Journal of Political Science*, 63(3):530–547, 2019. URL <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajps.12433>

## Week 7: Representation: Congruence and Responsiveness - November 23, 2021

### Readings

- 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 7
- Heike Klüver and Jae-Jae Spoon. Who responds? Voters, parties and issue attention. *British Journal of Political Science*, 46(3):633–654, 2016. URL <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123414000313>

## Week 8: Representation: Representation of Women - November 30, 2021

### Readings

- Dee Goddard. Examining the appointment of women to ministerial positions across Europe: 1970–2015. *Party Politics*, 27(4):631–643, 2021. URL <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068819878665>
- Amanda Clayton, Diana Z. O'Brien, and Jennifer M. Piscopo. All male panels? Representation and democratic legitimacy. *American Journal of Political Science*, 63(1):113–129, 2019. URL <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajps.12391>

## Week 9: Political Parties - December 7, 2021

### Readings

- 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 8
- Matthijs Rooduijn. State of the field: How to study populism and adjacent topics? A plea for both more and less focus. *European Journal of Political Research*, 58(1):362–372, 2019. URL <https://ejpr.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1475-6765.12314>

## Week 10: Party Competition - December 14, 2021

### Readings

- 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 9
- Dalston Ward, Jeong Hyun Kim, Matthew Graham, and Margit Tavits. How economic integration affects party issue emphases. *Comparative Political Studies*, 48(10):1227–1259, 2015. URL <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414015576745>
- Bonnie M. Meguid. Competition between unequals: The role of mainstream party strategy in niche party success. *American Political Science Review*, 99(3):347–359, 2005. URL <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055405051701>

## Week 11: Political Systems and Government Formation - December 21, 2021

### Readings

- 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 10
- Heike Klüver and Jae-Jae Spoon. Helping or hurting? How governing as a junior coalition partner influences electoral outcomes. *The Journal of Politics*, 82(4):1231–1242, 2020. URL <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/708239>

## Week 12: Making Laws: Governments and Parliaments - January 11, 2022

### Readings

- 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 11 + 12
- Lanny W. Martin and Georg Vanberg. Coalition government, legislative institutions, and public policy in parliamentary democracies. *American Journal of Political Science*, 64(2):325–340, 2020. URL <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajps.12453>

## Week 13: Judicial Politics - January 18, 2022

### Readings

- 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 13
- R. Daniel Kelemen. The European Union's authoritarian equilibrium. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 27(3):481–499, 2020. URL <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2020.1712455>

**Week 14: Brexit - January 25, 2022***Readings*

- Sara B. Hobolt. The Brexit vote: a divided nation, a divided continent. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 23(9):1259–1277, 2020. URL <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2016.1225785>
- Sara B. Hobolt, Thomas J. Leeper, and James Tilley. Divided by the vote: Affective polarization in the wake of the Brexit referendum. *British Journal of Political Science*, page 1–18, 2020. URL <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123420000125>

**Week 15: Exam - tba**

## Exam

**References**

- Amanda Clayton, Diana Z. O'Brien, and Jennifer M. Piscopo. All male panels? Representation and democratic legitimacy. *American Journal of Political Science*, 63(1):113–129, 2019. URL <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajps.12391>.
- 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.
- Dee Goddard. Examining the appointment of women to ministerial positions across Europe: 1970–2015. *Party Politics*, 27(4):631–643, 2021. URL <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068819878665>.
- Jens Hainmueller and Dominik Hangartner. Does direct democracy hurt immigrant minorities? Evidence from naturalization decisions in Switzerland. *American Journal of Political Science*, 63(3):530–547, 2019. URL <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajps.12433>.
- Sara B. Hobolt. The Brexit vote: a divided nation, a divided continent. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 23(9):1259–1277, 2020. URL <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2016.1225785>.
- Sara B. Hobolt, Jae-Jae Spoon, and James Tilley. A vote against Europe? Explaining defection at the 1999 and 2004 European Parliament elections. *British Journal of Political Science*, 39(1): 93–115, 2009. URL <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123408000422>.
- Sara B. Hobolt, Thomas J. Leeper, and James Tilley. Divided by the vote: Affective polarization in the wake of the Brexit referendum. *British Journal of Political Science*, page 1–18, 2020. URL <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123420000125>.
- Liesbet Hooghe and Gary Marks. Cleavage theory meets Europe's crises: Lipset, Rokkan, and the transnational cleavage. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25(1):109–135, 2018. URL <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2017.1310279>.
- R. Daniel Kelemen. The European Union's authoritarian equilibrium. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 27(3):481–499, 2020. URL <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2020.1712455>.

- Heike Klüver and Jae-Jae Spoon. Who responds? Voters, parties and issue attention. *British Journal of Political Science*, 46(3):633–654, 2016. URL <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007123414000313>.
- Heike Klüver and Jae-Jae Spoon. Helping or hurting? How governing as a junior coalition partner influences electoral outcomes. *The Journal of Politics*, 82(4):1231–1242, 2020. URL <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/708239>.
- Lanny W. Martin and Georg Vanberg. Coalition government, legislative institutions, and public policy in parliamentary democracies. *American Journal of Political Science*, 64(2):325–340, 2020. URL <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajps.12453>.
- Bonnie M. Meguid. Competition between unequals: The role of mainstream party strategy in niche party success. *American Political Science Review*, 99(3):347–359, 2005. URL <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055405051701>.
- Matthijs Rooduijn. State of the field: How to study populism and adjacent topics? A plea for both more and less focus. *European Journal of Political Research*, 58(1):362–372, 2019. URL <https://ejpr.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1475-6765.12314>.
- Julia Schulte-Cloos. Do European Parliament elections foster challenger parties' success on the national level? *European Union Politics*, 19(3):408–426, 2018. doi: 10.1177/1465116518773486. URL <https://doi.org/10.1177/1465116518773486>.
- Dalston Ward, Jeong Hyun Kim, Matthew Graham, and Margit Tavits. How economic integration affects party issue emphases. *Comparative Political Studies*, 48(10):1227–1259, 2015. URL <https://doi.org/10.1177/0010414015576745>.
- Thomas Winzen and Frank Schimmelfennig. Explaining differentiation in European Union treaties. *European Union Politics*, 17(4):616–637, 2016. URL <https://doi.org/10.1177/1465116516640386>.