INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN POLITICS:
Legislatures and Governments in Europe*
Winter 2017/18

Wednesdays 14:00 – 15:30, Seminarraum S103, IBW Gebäude
6 ECTS

Instructor:
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Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP)
Email: paula-castanho_bruno@phd.ceu.edu
Office hours: TBD
Office: TBD

Course Description

This course is designed for undergraduate students in social sciences. It introduces basic concepts and topics of parliamentary politics in European countries and the EU. At the end, students will know the fundamentals of government and coalition formation, government dissolution, and legislative behavior under various institutional settings. It can be coupled with other introductory courses on political institutions as stepping stones for more advanced ones on special topics.

*This is a preliminary syllabus subject to minor changes before the course starts.
Course Requirements

Grading will be composed of the following requirements:

1 **Final Paper (70%)**: Students must write a 3000-words research paper, to be handed in on **February 28, 2018, at 23:55 CET, by email to the instructor**. A list of references and appendices do not count towards the page limit. The topic must be related to contents covered in class. It should have an empirical component: for example, the analysis of how a specific theory we discussed can be applied to a country or government. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss the topic of their papers before the end of classes with tutors or the instructor. Papers should be written with 12 point font, double-spaced, and 2.5 cm margins.

2 **Final paper presentation (30%)**: In the last two weeks, students are required to present the design of their final paper. The presentation should include the topic, research question, theory, and (if applicable) data. This means: start thinking about your final paper early. The presentation should be no longer than 8 minutes. It is modeled after a conference panel. Students should provide constructive criticism and feedback to their colleagues. By the end of the fourth week, students should register themselves for a presentation slot. The link for registration will be sent by the instructor.

Points are converted to final grades as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100–95</td>
<td>1,0</td>
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<tr>
<td>94–90</td>
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<td>89–85</td>
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<td>84–80</td>
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<tr>
<td>49–0</td>
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Last updated: July 25, 2017
Unexcused late submissions of final papers will be subject to grade deductions following the scale below:

<table>
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<th>Deduction</th>
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<td>0–24 hours after deadline</td>
<td>20% penalty</td>
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<tr>
<td>24–48 hours after deadline</td>
<td>35% penalty</td>
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<tr>
<td>48–72 hours after deadline</td>
<td>50% penalty</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; 72 hours after deadline</td>
<td>Not graded</td>
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**Schedule**

**Week 1 (Oct 11): Introduction to the Course**

Mandatory Reading:


**Week 2 (Oct 18): Unicameralism, Bicameralism, and Types of Executives in Europe**

Mandatory reading:


Additional:


**Week 3 (Oct 25): Executive-legislative Relations**

Mandatory Reading:


Last updated: July 25, 2017
Week 4 (Nov 1): Public Holiday, no class

Week 5 (Nov 8): Coalitions and Government Formation

Mandatory reading:

Additional:

Week 6 (Nov 15): Government Recruitment and Cabinet Formation

Mandatory reading:

Week 7 (Nov 22): Cabinet Survival and Termination

Mandatory reading:

Additional reading:

Week 8 (Nov 29): Coalitions in the European Parliament

Mandatory reading:

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Additional:

**Week 9 (Dec 06): Party Discipline**

Mandatory reading:

Additional:

**Week 10 (Dec 13): Agenda-Setting**

Mandatory reading:

**Week 11 (Dec 20): Interest Groups and Lobbying in National Parliaments and the EU**

Mandatory readings:

**Week 12 (Jan 10): Tools for Studying Parliaments I: Text Analysis and Roll-call Data**

TBD

Last updated: July 25, 2017
Week 13 (Jan 17): Tools for Studying Parliaments II: Web-scraping and Data Visualization

TBD

Weeks 14 – 15 (Jan 24, 31): Student Presentations