



## Course Description:

This course provides an introduction into comparative politics in English. A central goal is to introduce students to basic theoretical and empirical concepts of comparative politics and exercise scientific writing. This is a highly demanding class, with a lot of reading and writing. The evaluation of the class will be based on students' active class participation, written weekly assignments, mid-term test (open book), final test (open book), and a short term paper.

## Course Requirements and Grading

The grading of the course will be based on the following components: **attendance, class discussion & weekly assignments (30%), mid-term test (15%), final test (15%), and term paper (40%)**.

Students who decide to drop out of the class have to **deregister until Sunday 17.03.2018 23h59**. Please note that students who participated in the first class, miss more than 2 classes, and have NOT deregistered, will receive a grade "fail" at the end of the class.

**Minimum Requirements:** The minimum requirement is the completion of all four class components: 1) attendance, class discussions & weekly assignments, 2) mid-term test, 3) final test, and 4) term paper (see above). This means that, in order to be graded, you need to complete each component (not necessarily successfully). For example, you can NOT master the class attendance, class discussions & weekly assignments section and the two tests which make up 60% of the final grade and decide not to write the final paper or vice-versa.

### In order to be graded class participants need to:

- 1) attend at least 13 out of 15 class sessions (first session is obligatory for everybody)
- 2) write the two tests (mid-term, final)
- 3) submit their term paper within the specified deadline

**General Rules:** Each written assignment (comments on Perusall, research question and theory, literature search, draft paper, peer feedback) has a predefined deadline (see the session table). On time submissions of all written assignments improve the grade for the section, late submissions worsen the grade for the section. It is possible to submit written assignments after the set deadlines. Such submissions will be treated as late and penalized with lower grades. (For more detail see below.)

Each component (1) attendance, class discussion & weekly assignments, 2) mid term test, 3) final test, and 4) term paper) will be graded separately. The overall grade will be the weighted average of the grades from the four components, whereby it is not necessary that each of the components is successful. In other words, students are allowed to fail any of the four components, and can still pass the class as long as the overall grade is at least 4.0.

Plagiarism and Ghostwriting are strictly forbidden. To make sure that these rules are not violated all written work will be crosschecked with a Plagiarism-software (Turnitin). In addition, on some occasions students will be required to provide an oral discussion of their written work.

## Course Readings and Assignments (required readings only)

For more information on the required readings (title, journal etc..) see the detailed weekly readings list: pages 6-8. You can find a separate document with recommended readings, which you can use as a starting point for your term papers, on Moodle.

<b>Fridays 16h45 -18h15</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Assignments</b>
Week 1 (08.03)	<b>Introduction &amp; Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No readings</li> <li>• Recommended: Oakley (2014)</li> </ul>
Week 2 (15.03)	<b>Empirical Research I</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powner (2015) Ch. 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>▶ 5 comments on Perusall due Friday (15.03) 12h00</li> </ul>
Week 3 (22.03)	<b>Empirical Research II</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Powner (2015) Ch. 3 &amp; 4</li> <li>▶ 5 comments on Perusall due Friday (22.03) 12h00</li> </ul>
29 March	<b>No session (double session on 14.06, week 11)</b>
Week 4 (05.04)	<b>Comparative Politics: Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tsebelis (1999) APSR</li> <li>• Caramani (2017) Ch. 1- Caramani (2017)</li> <li>▶ 5 comments on Perusall due Friday (05.04) 12h00</li> </ul>
Week 5 (12.04)	<b>Electoral Systems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chang and Golden (2007) BJPS</li> <li>• Caramani (2017) Ch. 10 - Gallagher (2017)</li> <li>▶ 5 comments on Perusall due Friday (12.04) 12h00</li> </ul>
15 - 28 April	<b>Spring Holidays</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take a break</li> <li>• Work on your research questions</li> </ul>
Week 6 (03.05) <b>Research Topic</b>	<b>Parties and Party Systems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tavits (2008) BJPS</li> <li>• Caramani (2017) Ch. 12 - Katz (2017)</li> <li>• Caramani (2017) Ch. 13 - Caramani (2017)</li> <li>▶ 5 comments on Perusall due Friday (03.05) 12h00</li> <li>▶ Research topic (one sentence) due Friday (03.05) 12h00</li> </ul>

Week 7 (10.05)	<p><b>Voting Behavior</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kedar (2005) APSR</li> <li>▶ 3 comments on Perusall due Friday (10.05) 12h00</li> </ul>
Week 8 (17.05) <b>Mid-Term Test</b>	<p><b>Mid-Term Test (40 min) &amp; Legislatures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McCubbins and Schwartz (1984) AJPS</li> <li>• Caramani (2017) Ch. 7 - Kreppel (2017)</li> <li>▶ 5 comments on Perusall due Friday (17.05) 12h00</li> <li>▶ Mid-term test <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Literature: Powner (2015) (Ch. 1- 4) + 4 scientific articles</li> <li>→ Cheat sheet (your own) - 5 pages typed text (A4)</li> <li>→ size 11, Times New Roman, normal margins (2.5 cm), 1.5 line spacing</li> <li>→ include page numbers and number the questions/answers</li> <li>→ upload on Moodle by 17 May 2019, 16h00</li> <li>→ submit the copy you used during the exam along with the exam</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
24 May	<b>No session (double session on 28.06, week 13)</b>
Week 9 (31.05)	<p><b>Government Types and Legislative Politics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thies (2001) AJPS</li> <li>• Caramani (2017) Ch. 8 - Müller (2017)</li> <li>▶ 5 comments on Perusall due Friday (31.05) 12h00</li> </ul>
Week 10 (07.06)	<p><b>Legislative Politics in Parliamentary Democracies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martin and Vanberg (2014) AJPS</li> <li>▶ 3 Comments on Perusall due Friday (07.06) 12h00</li> </ul>
Week 11 (14.06) <b>Research Question &amp; Theory</b> Double Session	<p><b>Supranational Institutions &amp; Research Question Discussion</b> Double Session - 16:45-18:15, 18:30-20:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hix (2002) AJPS</li> <li>• Caramani (2017) Ch.23 - Hix (2017)</li> <li>▶ Research Question &amp; Theory (500-600 words) due Wednesday (12.06) 12h00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Register collaborative papers by Wednesday (12.06) 12h00</li> <li>– Read research questions by your peers uploaded on Moodle</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Week 12 (21.06) <b>Literature Search</b>	<p><b>Courts (preliminary, might change)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carruba et al. (2008) APSR</li> <li>• Caramani (2017) Ch. 9 - Stone Sweet (2017)</li> <li>▶ 5 comments on Perusall due Friday (21.06) 12h00</li> <li>▶ Literature Search due Friday (21.06) 12h00</li> </ul>

<p>Week 13 (28.06) <b>In-Class Test</b> Double Session</p>	<p><b>Final Test - Open Book (40 min) &amp; Research Questions Discussion</b> Double session - 16:45-18:15, 18:30-20:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Literature: Powner (2015) (Ch. 1- 4) + 5 scientific articles</li> <li>▶ Cheat sheet (your own) - 5 pages typed text (A4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ at least size 11, Times New Roman, normal margins (2.5 cm all sides), 1.5 line spacing</li> <li>→ include page numbers and number the questions/answers</li> <li>→ upload on Moodle by 28 June 2019, 16h00</li> <li>→ submit the copy you used during the exam along with the exam</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Draft Paper</b></p>	<p><b>Draft Term Paper due Friday 12 July 2019, 21h00</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ First draft of your term paper (min 1500 Words) on Moodle</li> </ul>
<p><b>Peer Feedback</b></p>	<p><b>Peer Feedback due Friday 19 July 2019, 21h00</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Written feedback on 2 draft papers by peers on Moodle</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation of Peer Feedback</b></p>	<p><b>Evaluation of Peer Feedback due Friday 09 August 2019, 21h00</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Written evaluation of peers' feedback (2 min) on your term paper (Moodle)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Final Paper</b></p>	<p><b>Final Term Paper due Friday 09 August 2019, 21h00</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Term paper (3000-4000 words) in a Word and a PDF format on Moodle</li> <li>▶ If you wish to get your grades before 01 August 2019, submit your term papers at the latest by 20 July 21h00</li> </ul>

### Important Deadlines Overview:

- **Weekly deadlines**

- Comment on Perusall (5 comments): every Friday by 12h00, first time 15.03.2019, last time 28.06.2019 (Perusall)

- **Other deadlines**

- Research Topic: week 6, Friday 03 May 2019 12h00 (Moodle)
- Mid-term test (open book, in-class): week 8, Friday 17 May 2019
- Research Question & Initial Theory (500-600 words): week 11, Wednesday 12 June 2019 12h00 (Moodle)
- Register Collaboration: week 11, Wednesday 12 June 2019 12h00 (Moodle)
- Literature Search: week 12, Friday 21 June 2019 12h00 (Moodle)

- Final test (open book, in-class): week 13, Friday 28 June 2019
- First Draft Term Paper (min 1500 words): Friday 12 July 2019 21h00 (Moodle)
- Written feedback on two draft papers: Friday 19 July 2019 21h00 (Moodle)
- Evaluation of peer feedback: Friday 9 August 2019 21h00 (Moodle)
- Final Term Paper (3000-4000 words): Friday 9 August 2019 21h00 (Moodle)

## Detailed Readings Plan:

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### **Week 1 (08.03): Introduction & plan**

No readings

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### **Week 2 (15.03): Empirical Research I: Research Question & Hypotheses**

Powner, L. (2015) From Research Topic to Research Question, in L. Powner (Ed.) Empirical Research and Writing. A Political Science Student's Practical Guide, Los Angeles: CQ Press, pp. 1-19. (Chapter 1)

Powner, L. (2015) From Research Question to Theory to Hypothesis, in L. Powner (Ed.) Empirical Research and Writing. A Political Science Student's Practical Guide, Los Angeles: CQ Press, pp. 21-54. (Chapter 2)

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### **Week 3 (22.03): Empirical Research II: Literature Review & Research Design**

Powner, L. (2015) Doing Pre-Research, in L. Powner (Eds) Empirical Research and Writing. A Political Science Student's Practical Guide, Los Angeles: CQ Press, pp. 55-80. (Chapter 3)

Powner, L. (2015) Choosing a Design That Fits Your Question, in L. Powner (Ed.) Empirical Research and Writing. A Political Science Student's Practical Guide, Los Angeles: CQ Press, pp. 81-108. (Chapter 4)

### **Week 4 (05.04): Comparative Politics: Overview**

Tsebelis, T. (1999) Veto Players and Law Production in Parliamentary Democracies: An Empirical Analysis, *The American Political Science Review*, 93(3): 591-608.

Caramani, D. (2017) Introduction to Comparative Politics, in D. Caramani (Ed.), *Comparative Politics*, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-17. (Chapter 1)

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### **Week 5 (12.04): Electoral Systems**

Gallagher, M. (2017) Elections and Referendums, in D. Caramani (Ed.), *Comparative Politics*, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 173-187. (Chapter 10)

Chang, E., and M. Golden (2007) Electoral systems, district magnitude and corruption, *British Journal of Political Science*, 37(01): 115-137.

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## **15 - 28 April: Spring Holidays**

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### **Week 6 (03.05) Parties and Party Systems**

Katz, R. (2017) Political Parties, in D. Caramani (Ed.), *Comparative Politics*, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 207-223. (Chapter 12)

Caramani, D. (2017) Party Systems, in D. Caramani (Ed.), *Comparative Politics*, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 224-244. (Chapter 13)

Tavits, M. (2008) Party systems in the making: The emergence and success of new parties in new democracies, *British Journal of Political Science*, 38(01): 113-133.

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### **Week 7 (10.05): Voting Behavior**

Kedar, O. (2005) When Moderate Voters Prefer Extreme Parties: Policy Balancing in Parliamentary Elections, *American Political Science Review*, 99(2): 185-200.

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### **Week 8 (17.05): Mid-Term Test (40 min) & Legislatures**

Kreppel, A. (2017) Legislatures, in D. Caramani (Ed.), *Comparative Politics*, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 117-135. (Chapter 7)

McCubbins, M. and T. Schwartz (1984) Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms, *American Journal of Political Science*, 28(1): 165-179.

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### **Week 9 (31.05): Government Types**

Müller, W. C. (2017) Governments and Bureaucracies, in D. Caramani (Ed.), *Comparative Politics*, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 136-154. (Chapter 8)

Thies, M. (2001) Keeping Tabs on Partners: The Logic of Delegation in Coalition Governments, *American Journal of Political Science*, 45(3): 580-598.

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**Week 10 (07.06): Legislative Politics in Parliamentary Democracies**

Martin, L. W., and G. Vanberg (2014) Parties and policymaking in multiparty governments: The legislative median, ministerial autonomy, and the coalition compromise, *American Journal of Political Science*, 58(4): 979-996.

**Week 11 (14.06) (Double session): Supranational Institutions & RQ Discussion**

Hix, S. (2017) The EU as a New Political System, in D. Caramani (Ed.), *Comparative Politics*, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 403-421. (Chapter 23)

Hix, S. (2002) Parliamentary behavior with two principals: Preferences, parties, and voting in the European Parliament, *American Journal of Political Science*, 46(3): 688-698.

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**Week 12 (21.06) Courts (preliminary, may change)**

Stone Sweet, A. (2017) Constitutions, Rights, and Judicial Power, in D. Caramani (Ed.), *Comparative Politics*, 4th Edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 155-172. (Chapter 9)

Carrubba, C., M. Gabel, and C. Hankla (2008) Judicial behavior under political constraints: Evidence from the European Court of Justice, *American Political Science Review*, 102(04): 435-452.

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**Week 13 (28.06) (Double session): Final Test (40 min) & RQ Discussion**

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## Course Structure:

### Attendance

Students can miss up to maximum two class sessions during the semester.

### Required Readings & Participation in Class Discussions

Students are expected to read every week the required readings and participate in class discussions. This means that you should be prepared to summarize and discuss any required reading when called upon. These summaries should discuss the puzzle, the research question, describe the approaches, key arguments, and the results provided in the required readings.

The first two substantive sessions will deal with practical approaches to empirical research and writing in political science. For this purpose, we will cover the first four chapters from Powner (2015). Here we will learn what is a research topic, how to generate research questions, how to develop hypotheses, and how to structure our research design. Students can use this knowledge for scientific reading and writing in this class, as well as outside of it. Note that we can not cover the whole book by Powner (2015), but it is highly recommended to read it from cover to cover. This will save you a lot of effort and time as you proceed in your studies.

The remaining part of the class will discuss selected topics from comparative politics: party systems, electoral systems, voting behavior, legislatures, governments, legislative politics, supranational institutions, and courts. Most sessions will be based on two texts. The first text is usually from the lecture book by Caramani (2017), which provides an overview into a given subtopic and should give a wide background for the understanding and discussion of the scientific articles. The remaining readings(s) are a selection of seminal scientific articles from top political science journals like the American Journal of Political Science and the American Political Science Review.

The required chapters from Powner (2015) and Caramani (2017) and the scientific articles selected for this class will be the primary focus of class discussions and weekly assignments. The chapters from Caramani (2017) should help you navigate through the articles (e.g. clarify some of the used terminology).

**Weekly Assignments:** Weekly Readings Annotation on Perusall

### Comments on Perusall

To facilitate the understanding of students and interaction between peers, class participants are expected to discuss the required readings in groups before class using the online text annotation tool *Perusall*. Think about it as an online forum, where you discuss the required readings. This should allow us to benefit from the understanding of more than 40 unique minds. For more information about Perusall, watch some YouTube videos (e.g. *Get started with Perusall*) and check the *"live demo"*.

In particular, students are required to write a total of AT LEAST 5 comments on the chapters from Powner (2015), Caramani (2017) and the scientific articles every week by Friday

12h00. It is possible to write more than 5 comments. Late comments will be penalized with lower grades (see grading information below). I will post 2 questions on every article to facilitate discussions. Sometimes I will also place comments in your discussions, but the primary purpose of Perusall is that class participants help each other understand the required readings.

### **Mid-term Test and Final Test**

All students have to participate in the mid-term (week 8, 17.05.2019) and final test (week 13, 28.06.2019) - both open book, which will take place during regular class sessions. Each test will last 40 minutes and cover 12 questions (7 questions on 4-5 scientific articles, 2 multiple choice questions on Powner(2015) and Caramani (2017) and 3 bonus questions).

The two tests will include some *multiple choice questions* on chapters from Powner 2015 and Caramani 2017 (constitute 10-20% of the grade), but will primarily feature *substantive questions* on 9 scientific articles (constitute 80-90% of the grade). I will prepare and upload on Moodle a catalog with all potential *substantive exam questions* for each required scientific article. You can prepare your answers ahead of time and type these in a word document I call a "cheat sheet". You are allowed to bring your cheat sheets to the exam and can simply refer to your typed answers when you fill out the test. This will save you a lot of time, which you can use to answer the multiple choice and bonus questions.

Note that you can use only YOUR cheat sheet, no copies of cheat sheets by others. You have to upload your cheat sheet on Moodle before the exam and submit the cheat sheet you used during the exam together with the exam. Students who have identical cheat sheets will get lower grading, depending on the magnitude of the overlap. It will not matter who has copied from whom, all students with overlapping cheat sheets will receive lower grading. The general rule is, do not share your cheat sheet and do not use cheat sheets by others.

Students are allowed to bring their printouts of the literature covered in class (except for Caramani 2017) and their own cheat sheets.

### **Term Paper**

Students are expected to write **an empirical research paper (3000-4000 words)** and **submit their progress** in stages throughout the seminar with strict deadlines in May (research topic), June (research question, initial theory and literature search), and July (first draft).

I will upload all submitted research questions on Moodle so that class participants can read and discuss them in class. In this way, students are expected to learn how to provide constructive feedback, train their critical thinking, and facilitate collaborative work.

To encourage and practice collaborative work, **students are allowed to team up and write a term paper in groups of up to maximum 2 people**. You decide whether you would like to write your term paper on your own or collaborate with another student of

your choice from the class. If you decide to collaborate with another student, you will need to register via e-mail your co-author as early as possible, but at the latest by Wednesday, 12 June 2019, 12h00. If your collaboration does not work well, you can still submit a term paper on your own. Note that you can NOT decide to collaborate with another student after the set deadline. Collaborative term papers which were not registered with me until the set deadline will not be accepted. The requirements (structure, length etc.) for the term paper are the same no matter whether you write it on your own or co-author it with another student. Both authors of a given term paper will receive the same grade for the term paper.

Additionally, every student has to write **constructive feedback on the first draft of two term papers from their peers** and upload these on Moodle in July (Friday, 19 July 2019, 21h00). I will assign two papers for review to each student and upload a list who reviews whose paper on Moodle. Ideally, each student reviewer will receive two papers on a topic related to their own draft paper. Students can use their peers' reviews to improve their term papers. Additionally, students can arrange a meeting with me via e-mail to discuss their draft papers. Those, who will not be in Vienna but still want to talk to me about their papers, can arrange a Skype session. **The final deadline for the research paper is Friday, 09 August 2019, 21h00.**

#### *Recommended Readings*

You can find a list with recommended readings on Moodle. These are *not required to pass the class and will NOT be covered in the discussions, weekly assignments, and the mid-term and final tests*. The recommended readings should give a starting point for the term paper and provide some basis for the interested reader after the class ends.

#### **Technical Instructions:**

Note that some of the required articles might change, in case I find a better suiting article (more interesting) for the class discussion. I will inform you of any changes in the syllabus in advance.

All supplementary material for the class including various templates and guidelines will be available via Moodle. Students should submit all their written work on Moodle. All research questions and draft term papers should be uploaded on Moodle. Students will be able to read these, which should facilitate the learning process and creativity.

#### **Academic Honesty Policy Summary:**

In addition to skills and knowledge, University of Vienna aims to teach students appropriate Ethical and Professional Standards of Conduct. The Academic Honesty Policy exists to inform students and Faculty of their obligations in upholding the highest standards of professional and ethical integrity. All student work is subject to the Academic Honesty Policy. Professional and Academic practice provides guidance about how to properly cite, reference, and attribute the intellectual property of others. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard. In other words, plagiarism and ghostwriting are strictly forbidden. To make sure that these rules are not violated all written work will be crosschecked with a Plagiarism-software (Turnitin). In

addition, on some occasions students will be required to provide an oral discussion of their written work.

**Authorship** Student must clearly establish authorship of their work. Referenced work must be clearly documented, cited, and attributed, regardless of media or distribution.

**Declaration** Online submission of, or placing one's name on an assignment, or any course document is a statement of academic honor that the student has not received or given inappropriate assistance in completing it and that the student has complied with the *Academic Honesty Policy* in that work.

### **Consequences**

The instructor may impose a sanction on the student that varies depending upon the nature and gravity of the offense. Instances of ghostwriting and plagiarism will be instantly communicated to the University administration, which will make the final decision on the case (for more see: *here*).

Possible sanctions include but are not limited to the following: (1) Require the student to redo the assignment; (2) Require the student to complete another assignment; (3) Assign a grade 5 (fail) to the assignment; (4) Assign a final grade of 5 (fail) for the course; (6) Write an X (Plagiat) in the final bachelor/master certificate of the student. A student may appeal these decisions according to the Academic Grievance Procedure. (See the relevant section *here*)