**JTM041 European Comparative Politics and Society**

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Thu 12:30 – 13:50 or 14:00 – 15:20



The master course European Comparative Politics and Society will concentrate on different social cleavages in Europe: territorial, economic, religious, national, ethnic etc. Furthermore, we will discuss institutional structures of European parliamentary democracies, including party systems, type of governments or electoral systems in major European countries.

The course is based on an interactive approach, students will get involved in class debates during every session.

**Requirements:**

Active participation in class debates (20%)

Oral presentation (30%): Each student (in small group of two) will prepare an oral presentation on chosen topic: max 15 min, topics will be selected during the first week

Activity during EC simulation (10%)

Seminar paper (40%) – 10 pages, students may choose a topic based on the topics discussed in class, deadline: 12/1/2020

Attendance: Admitted is one absence.

Minimum of 70% is needed to pass (all above mentioned points must be accomplished)

**Programme:**

1. **Introduction (3.10.)**

Course description and assessment, introduction to readings and course activities, selection of presentations and feedbacks

1. **Theory of political parties (10.10.)**

Development of political parties from party of elites to cartel party

***Reading:***

* Katz, R., Mair, P., Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party, *Party Politics*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1995, pp. 5-28.
* Krouwel, A., Otto Kirchheimer and the catch-all party, *West European Politics*, 26:2, 1997, pp. 23-40.
1. **The United Kingdom: Is Brexit reconfiguring British politics? (17.10.) – Jan Váška**

Discussion about impact of Brexit on the Union, UK constitution and party system

***Reading:***

* Heffernan R., „Exploring (and Explaining) the British Prime Minister“, *British Journal of Politics & International Relations*7:4 (2005), 605-20.
* Prosser Ch., „The strange death of multi-party Britain: the UK general election of 2017“, *West European Politics* 41:5 (2018), 1226-1236.
1. **Cleavages in Europe: religious, ethnic, economic, social (24.10.)**

Discussion about main cleavages in European society and their changes in recent years

***Reading:***

* Kriesi, H., Restructuration of Partisan Politics and the Emergence of a New Cleavage Based on Values, *West European Politics*, 33:3, 2010, pp. 673-685.
* Minkenberg, M., Religion and Euroscepticism: Cleavages, Religious Parties and Churches in EU Member States, *West European Politics*, 32:6, 2009, pp. 1190-1211.
1. **Post-communist countries: a successful transformation? (31.10.)**

Discussion about how the post-communist countries performed during the process of transformation towards democracy and how they are doing now.

***Reading:***

* Kitschelt, H., Mansfeldová, Z., *Post-Communist Party Systems*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999, pp. 19-42.
* Ágh, A., Increasing europopulism as a megatrend in East Central Europe: from facade democracies to velvet dictatorship, *Baltic Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 5, 2016, pp. 21-39.
1. **Political transformation of post-soviet states-case of South Caucasus countries (7. 11.) – Pikria Asanishvili (Tbilisi State University)**
* The South Caucasus 2018: facts, trends, future scenarios., pp. 9-62.
1. **European Left: what happened after the end of the welfare state? (14.11.)**

Discussion about the development of left-wing ideologies in the 21st century.

***Reading:***

* Císař, O., The Left in the beginning of the 21st century, in Kopeček, L., *Trajectories of the Left. Social Democratic and Ex-Communist Parties in Contemporary Europe: Between Past and Future*, Brno: CDK, 2005, pp. 11-28.
* March, L., Radical Left Success before and after Great Recession, in March, L. and D. Keith, *Europe´s Radical Right: From Marginality to Mainstream?*, London: Rowman, 2016, pp. 27-50.
1. **Guest lecture of Maxine David (21. 11.)**
2. **Germany: a new hegemon of Europe? (28.11.)**

Discussion about position of Germany in Europe

***Reading:***

* Bulmer, S., Paterson, W., Germany as the EU´s reluctant hegemon? Of economic strength and political constraints, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 20:10, 2013, pp. 1387-1405.
* Berbuir, N., Lewandowsky, M., Siri, J., The AfD and its Sympathisers: Finally a Right-Wing Populist Movement in Germany?, *German Politics*, 24:2, 2015, pp. 154-178.
1. **Italy: a paradise of Populism? (5.12.)**

Discussion about recent political development in Italy and roots of its chronic instability

***Reading:***

* Verbeek, B., Zaslove, A., Italy: a case of mutating populism?, *Democratization*, 32:2, 2016, pp. 304-323.
* Tarchi, M., Italy: the promised and of populism?, *Contemporary Italian Politics*, 7:3, 2015, pp. 273-285.
1. **France and Europe: Eliška Tomalová (12.12.)**

Discussion about the role of France in the EU and the franco- german tandem.

***Reading:***

* *Initiative for Europe, Speech by M. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic*, [online]. Available from: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/european-union/events/article/president-macron-s-initiative-for-europe-a-sovereign-united-democratic-europe>.
1. **Joint final session (19.12.)**

Simulation of the European Council meeting

All the readings and materials will be available on-line in the system **moodle** – kurz (name): JMM530 Comparative Politics and Society: https://dl1.cuni.cz/course/view.php?id=6533