

## 402.122 SE Comparative Parties and Party Systems

Vergleich Politischer Systeme – Vertiefung

Wednesdays, 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (SOWI)

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### *Course description:*

Comparative Party and Party Systems is an upper-level course aiming at deepening students' understanding of comparative politics more broadly and of parties and party systems in particular. The course is designed as a seminar. In each class we will have several state-of-the-art readings which will introduce the theoretical and empirical development of a specific topic. For example, we will focus on why political parties exist in the first place, what they do, is their activity confined, and so on. We will then move on beyond the study of the party as an organization and examine how political parties interact with each other to form party systems. Some of the topics which we will cover include classical concepts like 'party system size', 'party patronage', 'party system institutionalization'. Lastly, we will discuss the causes and consequences of party system change. In this part of the class, we will look at budding questions like the rise of right-wing parties, loss of confidence in parties, decreasing voter turnout. A significant part of the class will be devoted to discussion of the readings with the aim to not only stimulate critical thinking, but also to allow students to master the skills necessary for doing research on their own. The goal of this course is deepen students' understanding of comparative politics and the comparative method, as well as build their knowledge in one subfield of comparative politics – comparative parties and party systems. Students will learn how to read academic research, how to form research questions, and write research papers on their own. The course will consist of seminar-type discussions on the weekly readings that will be assigned which will develop the critical and analytical thinking of students, as well as their presentation and communication skills. As a learning aid we will also do a simulation game, the goal of which is to allow students to put themselves in the political actors' roles and learn the process of decision-making within a given set of constraints in a fun and stimulating environment.

### *Grading:*

The grades will be determined based on participation (30%), attendance (30%), research paper (30%), and presentations (10%). The grade for participation will take into account discussion of reading materials in class, the research proposal, as well as the performance in the simulation game (each counting for one-third). Given that presence is imperative for learning, 30% of the semester grade will be based on attendance and on the weekly response papers students are expected to hand in in class. There

will be no final exam in this course. Instead, students will have to write a research paper, the summary of which they will have to present in class. The final paper will count as 30% of the semester grade. I also reserve the possibility of including one or more pop quizzes if attendance falls or there is evidence that students are not doing the reading.

*Directions on written assignments:*

- Response papers: Students are expected to read all assigned weekly readings prior to class and write a 2-page **analytical** response paper to be handed in before each class. Response papers should not be a summary of what you have read, but rather a critical perspective on a point of particular interest to you (something that was mentioned made you think...), a point of comparison (there is something that you find in common between the readings), or a point of difference (perhaps the readings deal with a similar question but answer it in a different way or with a different method). The goal of these is to help you 'digest' the reading material more easily and to allow for a more fruitful discussion in class.
- Research proposal. Your final assignment for this class is to write a research paper. As part of the thinking process and working on your paper, you are required to submit a research proposal. It should be 3-4 pages long and it should clearly delineate your subject of interest, your research question, your theory and your approach (choice of method). The research proposal needs to also include a literature review. The purpose here is to stimulate you to get clarity on what you will be doing as a final project early on, so that you have enough time to complete it and to achieve the standard you would like (and not the one you get when you write something up in the last 2 days before the deadline).
- End of term research paper. In substitution of a final exam you are expected to write a research paper for this course. The paper should be roughly **5000-6000 words** and it should examine an original question about comparative party politics that has sparked your interest. In writing your research paper, please be sure to include existing academic literature on the subject and to cite it properly. Excellent papers will use literature beyond the one discussed in class. This is the final product of the course and it aims at pulling together the research skills which you have acquired during the semester into producing a research paper of your own.

*Literature:*

There is no textbook required for this course. Instead, readings will include chosen book chapters and academic journal articles – some will be provided as pdf files, others students will need to find in the library.

***How Do We Compare and the Field of Party Politics?***

1. Wed 08.10. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)
  - Introduction and discussion of syllabus
2. Wed 15.10. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)
  - The research process
    - Manheim et al. 1995. "The Research Process" and "Writing the Research Report" in *Empirical Political Analysis*, Pearson.
  - Setting up your project – having a theory, formulating a research question, designing your study

### **Political Parties: Origin and Organization**

3. Wed 22.10. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)
  - What are political parties?
    - Schattschneider, E. E. (1942). *Party Government: American Government in Action*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, chapter 3 "What is a Political Party?" pp.1-37.
  - Why parties?
    - Aldrich, John (1995). *Why Parties?: The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 3-61.
  - Suggested further reading:
    - LaPalombara, Joseph & Myron Weiner (1966). The Origin and Development of Political Parties. In *Political Parties and Political Development*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
4. Wed 29.10. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)
  - How are parties organized?
    - Duverger, M. (1954). *Political Parties: Their Organization and Activity in the Modern State*. New York: Wiley, "Party Organization", pp. 1-60.
  - Party families
    - Mair, Peter and Cas, Mudde. 1998. "The Party Family and Its Study" *Annual Review of Political Science* 1: 211-229.
  - Suggested further reading:
    - Tavits, Margit. 2012. Organizing for Success: Party Organizational Strength and Electoral Performance in Post-communist Europe. *Journal of Politics*, 74(1), 83-97.
5. Wed 05.11. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)
  - Are parties limited in their activity? (introduction to the party regulation literature)
    - Biezen, Ingrid van and Gabriela Borz. 2012. "Models of Party Democracy: Patterns of Party Regulation in Post-War European Constitutions", *European Political Science Review*, 4 (3): 327-359.
    - Koß, Michael. 2011. *The Politics of Party Funding: State Funding to Political Parties and Party Competition in Western Europe*, Oxford University Press, chapters 1-4, pp. 1-55.
  - Discussion of research paper projects and presentations
  - Suggested further reading:
    - Biezen, Ingrid van. 2004. "Political Parties as Public Utilities", in *Party Politics*, Vol. 10 (6): 701-722.

**Research proposal DUE on Friday, 07.11.2014, 17:00 in my email box.** Late proposals will receive a failing grade. Be on time!

6. Wed 12.11. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)
  - The party-voter linkage
    - Kitschelt, Herbert. 2000. "Linkages between Citizens and Politicians in Democratic Polities". *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 33 (6-7): 845-879.
  - Gender and party politics
    - Kaul, Miki. 1999. "Women's Representation in Parliament: The Role of Political Parties", in *Party Politics*, Vol. 5 (1): 79-98.

- Krook, Mona Lena. 2010. "Women's Representation in Parliament: A Qualitative Comparative Analysis", in *Political Studies*, 58: 886-908.
- *Suggested further reading:*
  - Kopecký, Petr and Gerardo Scherlis. 2008. "Party Patronage in Contemporary Europe". *European Review*, Vol. 16: 355-371.

### **Party Systems: Structures and Institutions**

7. Wed 19.11. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)

- Types of party systems
  - Blondel, Jean. 1990. "Types of Party Systems", in Peter Mair (eds.), *The West European Party System*. New York: Oxford University Press.
  - Duverger, Maurice (1990). "The Two Party System and the Multiparty System", in Peter Mair (eds.), *The West European Party System*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Do political parties protest?
  - Chernykh, Svitlana. 2014. "When Do Political Parties Protest Election Results", in *Comparative Political Studies*, 47(10): 1359-1383.
- *Suggested further reading:*
  - Bardi, Luciano & Peter Mair (2008). "The Parameters of Party Systems", in *Party Politics*, 14(2), 147-166.

8. Wed 26.11. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)

- Institutional origins of party systems
  - Lijphart, Arend. 1990. "The Political Consequences of Electoral Law, 1945-85", in *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 84 (2): 481-496.
- Social origins of party systems
  - Lipset, Seymour and Stein Rokkan. 1990. Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments. In Peter Mair (eds.), *The West European Party System*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- *Suggested further reading:*
  - Ordeshook, Peter and Olga Shvetsova. 1994. "Ethnic Heterogeneity, District Magnitude, and the Number of Parties", in *American Journal of Political Science*, 38(1), 100-123.
- Presentations

9. Wed 03.12. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)

- Presentations

### **Party System Change**

10. Wed 10.12. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)

- New party entry
  - Tavits, Margit. 2006. "Party System Change: Testing a Model of New Party Entry", in *Party Politics*, 12 (1): 99-119.
- Measuring party system size
  - Taagerepera, Rein and Markku Laakso. 1979. "Effective Number of Parties: A Measure with Application to Western Europe", in *Comparative Political Studies*, 12 (1): 3-27.

- *Suggested further reading:*
    - Clark, W. and M. Golder. 2006. "Rehabilitating Duverger's theory: testing the mechanical and strategic modifying effects of electoral laws". *Comparative Political Studies*, vol. 39: 679-708.
11. Wed 07.01. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)
- Party system institutionalization
    - Mainwaring, Scott and Marciano Torcal. 2006. "Party system institutionalization and party system theory after the third wave of democratization", in Richard Katz and William Crotty (eds.), *Handbook of Party Politics*, Sage.
  - Party nationalization
    - Morgenstern et al. 2014. "Ni Chicha ni Limona: Party Nationalization in Pre- and Post-Authoritarian Chile", in *Party Politics*, 20 (5):751-766.
  - *Suggested further reading:*
    - Randall, Vicky and Lars Svasand. 2002. "Party System Institutionalization in New Democracies", in *Party Politics*, Vol. 8 (1): 5-29.
12. Wed 14.01. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)
- SIMULATION GAME
13. Wed 21.01. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi)
- Analyzing the simulation
  - Summary on what we've learned
14. Wed 28.01. 08.00-09.45 - SR 4 (Sowi) – no class; research papers due at 17:00 in my email box.