

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the information below is subject to change, in particular that concerning the teaching mode (presential, distance or in a comodal or hybrid format).

5 credits	30.0 h	Q1
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Teacher(s)	De Winter Lieven ;
Language :	English
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	This course offers a comparative overview of the major political decision-making actors, institutions, processes and contents of European countries in the post-war period from a principal-agent theoretical framework. The following themes will be addressed: electoral behaviour and societal cleavages; electoral systems; parties and party systems; political representation and parliaments; the formation, structure, stability and decision-making methods of national governments; the policy content and forms in a variety of policy sectors.
Aims	<p>The aims of this course in comparative analysis is to offer the students an analytical framework allowing them to understand the structure and functioning of Western political systems, their components and interactions between subsystems, and to be able to interpret processes of change. This skill will equally be useful to grasp the functioning of non-Western democratic systems. Students have to gain insight into the degree of linkage and interdependency between subsystems. He must be able to make a critical evaluation of the effects of proposals for institutional reform. Doing so, he will get acquainted with current research methods and techniques and data collection of comparative politics and be able to apply these to new political subjects of comparison.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><i>The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".</i></p>
Content	This course offers a comparative overview of the major political decision-making actors, institutions, processes and contents of European countries in the post-war period. The following themes will be addressed: electoral behaviour and societal cleavages; electoral systems; parties and party systems; political representation and parliaments; the formation, structure, stability and decision-making methods of national governments; the policy content and forms in a variety of policy sectors. The courses are given "ex cathedra" but allowing for informal interaction between student and teacher. After the presentation of the theoretical approaches of each component of the political system, is presented a substantial empirical part based on comparative research and practical examples, in order to develop the factual characteristics of political institutions, actors and processes in Western democracies.
Bibliography	M., Laver, M., Mair, P. (2011), <u>Representative government in Modern Europe</u> , Mc Graw Hill; Caramani, D., (ed) 2017, <u>Comparative Politics</u> , Oxford, Oxford University Press; Lijphart, A. (2012) <u>Patterns of Democracy</u> , Yale University Press, New Haven; Farrell, D. (2011): <u>Electoral systems: A comparative introduction</u> , Houndmills, Palgrave Macmillan; Strøm, K., Müller, W. and T. Bergman, (eds.) (2003), <u>Delegation and Accountability in Western Europe</u> , Oxford: Oxford University Press; Strøm, K., Müller, W. and T. Bergman, (eds.) (2000) <u>Cabinets and Coalition Bargaining. The Democratic Life Cycle in Western Europe</u> , Oxford: Oxford University Press, Gallagher + 2020 updates
Other infos	A keen interest in the politics of other countries, and a good passive knowledge of English (reading and listening). The teacher will provide for a reading list including the most recent and relevant theoretical and empirical contributions to the different comparative politics subfields.
Faculty or entity in charge	PSAD

### Force majeure

Teaching methods	Online teaching via TEAMS, with recording of lessons available on EZstreams, all teaching material available on moodle (as usual)
Evaluation methods	exam Multiple Choice, online via Moodle (3hrs)

<b>Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)</b>				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Aims
Master [120] in Political Sciences: General	SPOL2M	5		
Master [120] in Political Sciences: International Relations	SPRI2M	5		
Master [60] in Political Sciences: General	SPOL2M1	5		
Master [120] in Public Administration	ADPU2M	5		