

<b>Module 2</b>	Political Systems in Comparison: The EU and beyond			
	<i>Politische Systeme im Vergleich: EU and beyond</i>			
	<b>Module type</b>		Required	
	<b>Module ID number</b>		107500200	
	<b>Credit points (LP)</b>		10 LP	
	<b>Semester hours per week (SWS)</b>		4 SWS	
	<b>Semester</b>	1st/2nd semester	<b>Workload (total)</b>	
	<b>Term</b>	Fall semester	<b>of which</b>	<b>Classroom hours</b>
	<b>Duration</b>	Two semesters		<b>Self-study</b>
			300 h	
			60 h	
			240 h	
<b>Qualification objective</b>	<p>This module gives students a basic knowledge of the essential characteristics of democratic political systems, using the Federal Republic of Germany and the European Union as specific examples. Students gain an understanding of both the FRG and the EU as interlocking multi-level systems in which state powers are divided (executive, legislative, judiciary) and political power is both legally bound (rule of law) and requires legitimation (constitutional order, political system, political process). In this context, students learn to view the ongoing European integration process as an engine of change that affects the organization of political systems and the relationship between their constituent elements (separation of powers, legitimacy, rule of law) at all levels.</p> <p>In the second part of the module, students learn to connect core actor groups (parties, interest groups, elites, media) to important political processes and forms of political debate (elections, protest, constitutional disputes, public sphere). They gain the ability to identify and analyze defining differences in the structure, functioning and changes in political systems on the basis of comparison to other democratic systems. Finally, they learn to detect and classify differences between these systems and authoritarian and semi-authoritarian forms of governance.</p>			
<b>Expertise</b>	<p>Students gain an extended basic knowledge of the structure, functioning and changes in political systems (democracy, separation of powers, rule of law). Likewise, they become familiar with and can give examples of changes in political orders and processes brought on by European integration. In the process, they learn to connect core actor groups (parties, interest groups, elites, media) to important political processes and forms of political debate (elections, protest, constitutional disputes, public sphere). They also gain the ability to identify and analyze defining differences in the structure, functioning and changes in political systems on the basis of comparison to other democratic systems. Building on the introductory knowledge that students acquired in their first semester regarding FRG- and EU-political systems, they can also identify and classify differences between these systems and authoritarian and semi-authoritarian forms of governance.</p>			
<b>Methodological competence</b>	<p>Students can outline central analytical perspectives of the FRG's political system in a European multi-level context and describe central features of democratic multi-level orders. They can identify the perspectives coming out of comparative political science and apply them within the context of discussions and evaluations. Students possess advanced skills in working with scholarly literature and carrying out independent research using in this literature. They can also name examples of comparative research databases for political science.</p>			

Continuation of Module 2:

<b>Social and personal skills</b>	Students gain basic skills for presenting course content, both individually and together with other students. They can discuss and summarize academic texts in cooperation with other students and can independently work out how to apply theoretical perspectives and terminology. They can also discuss their assessment of facts in small groups and in a larger group-learning context (i.e., in a lecture) and can make critical observations or respond critically to other views, opinions and arguments within a common learning environment.
<b>Course and study formats</b>	Lecture, presentations, discussion
<b>Module coordinator</b>	Prof. Dr. Torben Lütjen Prof. Dr. Christof Roos
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None
<b>Language of instruction</b>	German/English
<b>Applicable degree program</b>	B.A. Social Sciences: Social and Political Change