

<b>Titel:</b> Selected Topics in Comparative Government: European Union Democracy	
<b>Art der Veranstaltung:</b> Hauptseminar	<b>Angeboten im:</b> Frühjahrssemester 2014

### **Kursbeschreibung:**

Electoral democracy in the EU, and the democratic quality of EU political processes more broadly, is a debated issue. Some claim political decision making in the European Union is more democratic than it is in many nation states (Moravcsik) or just about as democratic as it needs to be (Majone). Others argue, however, that there is a profound democratic deficit which originates, among other things, in the lack of political mobilization and involvement of citizens at times of European Parliament elections (Follesdahl & Hix). Moreover, European Parliament elections are said to be fought on domestic rather than EU political issues, and the electoral process and outcome of it to be essentially of a "second-order" nature (Reif & Schmitt). This might no longer be so, however, after EU politics are said to have entered into a post-functionalist phase in which issues of identity are becoming more important than the bread-and-butter issues which dominated earlier decades (Marks & Hooghe). In addition, EU politics are part of a complex multi-level system of governance and cannot, or should not, be analysed in isolation (Marks & Hooghe once more).