

<b>Titel:</b> Selected Topics in International Relations I: The European Parliament	<b>Verantw.:</b> Yordanova, Nikoleta <b>Durchf.:</b> Yordanova, Nikoleta
<b>Art der Veranstaltung:</b> Hauptseminar	<b>Angeboten im:</b> Herbstsemester 2014

### **Kursbeschreibung:**

This course provides a theoretical and empirical analysis of legislative politics in the European Parliament (EP) and its role in EU policy-making. At a theoretical level, the topics cover major approaches to the study of legislative behaviour, organisation and decision making borrowed primarily from the literature on the US Congress. At an empirical level, the examined readings evaluate the implications of legislators' electoral, policy and career goals for their legislative behaviour; the role of the EP organisation (political parties, committees and rules); the consequences of gate-keeping, agenda setting and veto power as well as bicameralism for decision-making in the EU; and the parliamentary oversight of the EU executive. At a normative level, it is assessed whether and how the Parliament helps solving the democratic deficit problem of the Union.

Aims and objectives of the course

- To introduce students to selected major theoretical literature on legislative politics
- To familiarise students with state of the art analytical literature on the EP and EU policy-making
- To encourage critical thinking in evaluating published work in class presentations and discussions
- To motivate students to develop their own research ideas and guide them in examining these ideas in their own analytical papers.