Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

Lehrstuhl für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft

Prof. Dr. Thomas Saalfeld

**Winter Semester 2014/2015**

Seminar (Master), Hauptseminar (Diplom, MA)

**Ausgewählte Probleme der Vergleichenden Politikwissenschaft**

**(Selected Problems in Comparative Politics):**

**Government Stability in Liberal Democracies and Authoritarian Regimes** (in English)

Time: Wednesdays, 12.00-14.00

Venue: F21/03.48

Start date: 15 October 2014

Registration in

FlexNow!: 01/10/2014-13/10/2014 (Deregistration by 20/10/2014)

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Thomas Saalfeld

**Prerequisites/ Zulassungsvoraussetzungen**

BA in Political Science, Vordiplom/ Zwischenprüfung in Political Science, or equivalent qualification in Political Science for visiting students

**Assessment/ Erwerb eines Leistungsnachweises**

Portfolio consisting of at least one seminar presentation (25%) and one essay (75%)

ECTS credits: 8

**Inhalt/ Programme**

This seminar-based module deals with government stability in a comparative context. In the first part, we will focus on parliamentary systems in liberal democracies. The second part will be devoted to the vulnerability of governments in non-democratic settings. This topic is not only very topical in terms of current events as the recent sovereign-debt crisis has brought into focus the interaction between international financial markets and economic performance on the one hand and the stability of democratic governments on the other. Authoritarian regimes rely more strongly on coercion to stay in power, especially during times of poor economic performance. Although the electoral mechanism is less relevant to their survival, they need to form different types of ‘winning coalitions’ to stay in power. The module will deal with both regime types. Students will discuss analytic models and methods to study the conditions for, and consequences of, government stability in general, applying standard empirical methods of political science and comparative political economy.

**Recommended Introductory Reading**

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce et al. (2003). *The Logic of Political Survival*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Warwick, Paul V. (1994). *Government Survival in Parliamentary Democracies. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press*.