Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg



Professur für Empirische Politikwissenschaft

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Sieberer

**Sommersemester 2019**

Hauptseminar (MA)

**Hauptseminar Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft IV: Coalition Politics**

Time: Tuesday, 12.00-14.00

Venue: FMA 1.20

Start Date: 23 April 2019

Registration in FlexNow!: 1 April until 26 April (Deregistration until May 3)

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Sieberer

**Prerequisites/Zulassungsvoraussetzungen**

BA or equivalent qualification in Political Science.

**Assessment/Erwerb eines Leistungsnachweises**

Term paper (70%) and oral presentation (30%)

ECTS Credits: 8

**Program**

At least in multi-party systems, politics is usually coalition politics. Thus, it is not surprising that coalition research is one of the most advanced research fields in comparative politics. This seminar provides a research-oriented survey of the current literature on coalitions in advanced parliamentary democracies. The topics covered include coalition formation, the distribution of benefits, coalition governance, intra-coalitional control and coalition termination. We will cover both theoretical and empirical studies with a focus current research articles. After completing the seminar, students will (1) possess a sound knowledge of the current literature on coalition politics, (2) know the most important theoretical and empirical approaches to studying coalition politics along with their strengths and limits, (3) be able to critically and independently assess the state of research regarding specific topics in coalition politics, and (4) be able to identify and systematically answer open research questions regarding coalition politics.

**Introductory Readings**

A detailed list of readings will be distributed in the first session. The following texts provide a good introduction into the topic:

Laver, Michael, and Norman Schofield. 1990. *Multiparty Government: The Politics of Coalition in Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Müller, Wolfgang C. 2011. “Governments and bureaucracies.” In *Comparative Politics*. 2nd ed., ed. Daniele Caramani. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 141–61.

Strøm, Kaare, Wolfgang C. Müller, and Torbjörn Bergman, eds. 2008. *Cabinets and Coalition Bargaining. The Democratic Life Cycle in Western Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.