



Wintersemester 2017/2018

Vertiefungsseminar BA

Vertiefungsseminar Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft: The U.S. Congress in comparative perspective

Time: Montag, 10.00-12.00
Venue: F21/03.02
Start date: Oct 16, 2017
Registration
in FlexNow!: Oct 1, 2017 until Oct 23, 2017 (deregistration until Oct 30, 2017)
Dozent: Prof. Dr. Ulrich Sieberer

Prerequisites

Completion of two of the following three modules: Vorlesung / Proseminar / Seminar in Comparative Politics

Assessment/Erwerb eines Leistungsnachweises

Term paper (60%) and short reaction papers (40%).
ECTS Punkte: 8

Programme

This seminar introduces students to the United States Congress, often considered the most powerful legislature in the world. Through the seminar the participants should be familiarized with fundamental theoretical and empirical knowledge in the field of comparative legislative studies. Contents to be covered include the role of parliamentary parties, parliamentary committees, the relationship between Congressmen and their voters and the interaction between the legislative and executive branches of government. Each topic will be dealt with in a comparative fashion by contrasting the American case with parliaments in European countries.

At the end of the seminar students should know the basic organizational features of the U.S. Congress and should be able to compare it with the situation in European parliaments. They should also know some fundamental theoretical approaches to analyzing Congress and parliaments more generally. Students should be able to assess the impact of the congressional literature on comparative legislative studies and should be able to critically reflect on the prospects of using these theories to study European parliaments.

Introductory literature

A detailed syllabus will be distributed in the first session. We will read large sections of the following textbook which I strongly recommend you to buy (**attention, second edition!**):

Stewart, Charles, III. 2012. *Analyzing Congress*. 2nd edition. New York, NY: W.W.Norton.