

Parliamentary Studies – The Politics of Legislative Bodies –

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 17h-18h, Room 3.14 – ID Building
Grading: 10 ECTS

I. Course Aims and Outcomes:

Aims

This course provides conceptual tools and factual knowledge, so that students may understand the structure and activities of Parliaments, in and outside Portugal. Main topics of discussion: Methods of Legislative Research, Law-making, Descriptive Representation in Parliament, Political Parties and Recruitment; as well as Democracy, Populism, Lobbies, Media and Citizens. How parliamentary groups interact with each other in committees and plenary meetings, and implications of greater involvement of women in Parliamentary dynamics. What the content of parliamentary speeches and the main strategic argumentative choices. How Parliament opens up to society and Media. How it deals with European Union (EU) affairs.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

The module has both a theoretical and practical part, where students are required to carry out a study on a topic of their choice.

II. Format and Procedures:

CONCEPTS

Each class is structured in two parts: a lecture, delivered by either the instructor or by one of the guest lecturers, and a class discussion on a specific theme. Themes will be communicated in advance of each class, to enable one or more students to prepare a presentation to deliver in front of the class. This is followed by a class discussion. *Every student is required to participate by asking questions in both parts of the class*, since this will count in the final assessment.

III. Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation policy:

Since there is no final exam and no course book, it is critical that students attend classes. When a student misses a class because of an illness or unanticipated event, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor and provide an explanation.

2. Course readings:

There are no texts to buy, but in preparation of each class, the student will be required to do the required readings. All readings and the slides will be available in pdf.

3. Assignment and grading Procedures:

- (a) One 2000-3000-word paper (60%)**
- (b) 1 individual oral presentation + 1 group work (30%)**
- (c) Participation to debate (10%)**

Further information on assignments and grading procedures will be given in the first class.

IV. Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to ensure that any work submitted for academic credit will be the student's own work. Penalty for violation of this rule can imply the failure of the course.

V. Course schedule

DAY	DATE	TOPICS
1	20/02	Introduction to parliamentary studies
2	27/02	Democracy, Populism and Parliament
3	06/03	---
4	13/03	Methods of Legislative Research
5	20/03	Parliamentary Recruitment and Legislative Careers
6	27/03	The functions of Parliament
7	03/04	Lobbies
8	10/04	Parliaments and citizens
9	24/04	The Portuguese Parliament
10	08/05	The British Parliament in a Comparative Perspective
11	15/05	Argumentation in parliament
12	22/05	The European Parliament
13	29/05	Parliaments outside of Europe