



Wintersemester 2020

Seminar Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft: Women and Politics in Central and Eastern Europe

(Language of instruction is English)

Time: Tuesdays, 12.00-14.00
Venue: online

Start Date: 03.11.2020

Registration in

FlexNow!: 01.10.2020 – 01.11.2020 (deregistration: 01.10.2020 – 15.11.2020)

Instructor: Agata Maria Kraj, M.A.

Zulassungsvoraussetzungen/Entry Requirements:

None

Erwerb eines Leistungsnachweises/Assessment:

Portfolio consisting of 11 short papers, 400-600 words each (each short paper counting for 9,09 % of the final grade)

ECTS credits: 6

The course consists of weekly seminars, during which the main concepts introduced by the assigned readings will be discussed, critically assessed, and placed in a wider context of the scholarly literature on women's political representation. Each session will comprise a short presentation of the mandatory reading by the instructor and a student presentation of one of the recommended readings assigned to the class, followed by a seminar-wide discussion. Learning through presentations and group discussions will also be complemented by small group activities and class debates.

Lectures will complement and go beyond, rather than substitute for the texts allotted in the syllabus, therefore, it is strongly recommended that every student attends the class regularly and reads all pertinent material.

The students are required to give a presentation in class once (1) during the semester. Presentations should briefly summarize one of the recommended readings assigned for the session, assess how it complements our understanding of the subject or challenges our perspectives on it, and critically discuss the implications of the reading. Each presenter is also required to prepare a set of discussion questions based on the assigned readings to help guide subsequent class discussion.

Each student is also obligated to hand in one (1) term paper at the end of the semester. The paper should strive to answer a research question based on one of the substantive issues discussed in class. In order to do so, students are required to choose relevant literature and critically assess and evaluate its theoretical and methodological contribution to help them answer their research question of choice.

Programme/Course Description

This seminar focuses on the existing scholarly literature concerning women's political representation in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Thus, the course begins with a brief introduction into the legacy of the Communist system in the region vis-à-vis women's presence in legislatures, and an overview of their current levels of numerical representation. This will

open the door for a brief discussion of the normative aspects of women's representation and a debate about whether it matters who representatives are and why increasing women's numbers in legislatures might be of importance to legislative processes and policy outputs. Following the normative debates, the class will explore various cultural and political factors shaping women's political presence across the region (e.g. mass movements, ideology, political culture and electoral rules, the EU), and assess the difference that women make in politics in the specific countries in CEE.

Literatur zur Einführung/Introductory Literature

Gwiazda, A. (2015). *Democracy in Poland. Representation, participation, competition, and accountability since 1989*. Routledge: London.

Matland, R.E. & Montgomery, K.A. *Women's access to political power in Post-Communist Europe*. Oxford University Press: New York.

Paxton, P. & Hughes, M.M. (2014). *Women, politics, and power. A global perspective*. Sage: Los Angeles.