

Course code (filled in by the Office for Education)	
Course title	Comparative Parliamentary Studies
Module title	Public Governance and Political Science
Level of the Course	MA
Institute/Department responsible for course	Institute of Constitutional Law
Course director	Dr. Zsolt Szabó PhD.
Name of the Lecturer(s)	Dr. Zsolt Szabó Phd., Prof. Dr. Zoltán Szente, Dr. Csaba Erdős PhD.
Number of the ECTS credits	5 ECTS
Teaching methodology	Lectures: Class contact teaching Assignments Individually: class participation, team project
Language of instruction	English
Prerequisite(s) for the course	Fluency in English
Semester	all semesters
Course description	The government structures of countries might be different, but the existence of a parliament is a common point of all countries. Parliament can be observed from different viewpoints: parliament as a central constitutional organ, parliament as historical achievement of Europe, parliament as a scene for policy making. The course presents the most important international models of a parliament, and analyses its internal and external environment with the comparative method. It focuses on the concept of separation of powers, and the development of parliamentary functions from decision-making to control. Especially the US, the UK and the German models will be deeply analyzed, with a glance at other countries (Visegrad Group, Western Balkans, Benelux Group, European Parliament). Beyond the legal sources (constitutions, statutes), also the political functioning and the everyday political practice will be studied. The lecture is completed by a visit at the Hungarian National Assembly. Participants are encouraged to bring examples and experience from their home parliaments by short presentations.
Learning outcomes and course competences	Participants will be able to identify the main concepts, types, functions and working methods of parliaments.
Weekly content of course	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction 2. The main concepts of parliament 3. The position of parliament in different forms of government 4. Electoral systems and parliaments 5. Federalism and parliament, parliament of multinational states 6. Parliamentary law: sources and practice 7. Inner structure of parliaments 8. Legal status of MPs 9. Parliamentary groups, parliamentary administration 10. Transparency and publicity 11. Legislative procedure 12. Parliamentary control 13. Parliamentary committees of inquiry 14. The European Parliament 15. Conclusions, evaluation
Compulsory and recommended reading materials	Blackburn, Robert, Kennon, Andrew, Wheeler-Booth, Sir Michael: Parliament: Functions, Practice and Procedures, Sweet & Maxwell, 2002. Erskine May, Thomas: Parliamentary Practice, LexisNexis, 2011
Assessment methods and criteria	essay writing
Grading	five scale grading
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