



Course Title: **Globalization, Europeanization & The Transformation of National Capitalisms in Western Europe**

Lecturer: Dr. Thomas Paster

Course number	1522
Location/Room	Philosophikum (building no. 103) Room S 76
Time	Tuesday, 10:00 – 11:30, First meeting: 10 April
Credit Points	6 ECTS
Type of course	PhD course
Course Language	English

### 1. Objectives

This course will introduce students to issues of *comparative political economy* in Western Europe. Its main focus is the transformation of national economic and social systems in Western Europe in recent decades and the exploration of possible interactions between that transformation, the global economy, and the European institutions. We focus in this course on the adjustment of national social and economic systems to a range of international and domestic challenges and seek to analyse how and why responses have differed across countries. We will look at fields such as industrial relations, corporate governance, migration, monetary policy, and welfare state reform.

Throughout the course we will engage with such questions as

- How do the political economies of Europe differ?
- How does the global economy impact changes in domestic economic regimes? What kind of effect can globalization be documented to have, or not to have?
- Which direction does change take? To what extent can we observe a liberalisation of domestic economic systems? Is the direction of change one of divergence or convergence?
- How do different types of political economies differ in their vulnerability to international challenges and what can be possible explanations for these potential differences?
- What is the continued role of domestic politics in shaping national political economies?
- How has the financial crisis of 2008 and the subsequent fiscal crisis affected different economic systems?

### 2. Prerequisites

Participants should have an interest in the questions listed above and be open towards discussing different perspectives.

As the course is held in English, participants must be able to read academic texts in English and participate in seminar discussions in English.

### 3. Relevance for study programmes

CGS Students, Master and Doctoral students of the University of Cologne





#### **4. Registration**

Participants need to register through the online system KLIPS until April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The maximum number of participants is 30.

The course takes place on a weekly basis.

#### **5. Contents**

See 1.

#### **6. Working requirements and assessment method**

Discussion of the compulsory readings will make up the main part of the seminar.

To get credit, each participant has to fulfil all of the following three criteria:

1. Each week have done all the reading for that week's seminar and participate actively in the discussion.
2. Each week write a short essay (one page) on the main questions raised in that week's reading and submit it by 12 o'clock noon the day before the seminar (i.e., Monday).
3. Present at least one of the assigned compulsory texts in the seminar (ca. 15 to 20 minutes).

Grading will be based on the fulfilment of these three criteria. Registered participants will receive a detailed seminar outline with the list of readings.

#### **7. Teaching staff**

The course is given by Thomas Paster. He is a Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG). His work focuses on welfare state development in a comparative-historical perspective.

#### **8. Co-ordination/Contact**

Email: [thp@mpifg.de](mailto:thp@mpifg.de)

I am available for consultation after each seminar session.

