*Title of Course*: **Comparative Parliamentary Law**

*Venue and Time of Course*:  tbd.

*Instructor's Name*: **dr. Szabó, Zsolt**

| Credit Point Value: 6 | Number of Lessons per Week: 2 | Type of Course: seminar | Method of Evaluation: written exam |
|---|---|---|---|

**Course Description:**

The course focuses on the Parliament as a democratic institution from different viewpoints: Parliament as main constitutional body, parliament as historical development, parliament as a political stage. Especially the German Bundestag, the British Parliament and the Hungarian National Assembly will be deeply analyzed, with a look at other parliaments of the world (including Parliaments of the participants). Parliaments of Western and Central Europe (Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Visegrad countries, Western Balkans) and the European Parliament will serve as further examples of theory and practice. Beyond the legal basis of parliaments (constitutions, rules of procedure), also the political function and the everyday practice of the respective parliaments will be studied.
Participants are encouraged to contribute with their own short presentations during the course. The lecture can be completed by a visit of the Hungarian National Assembly or by a day trip to the neighboring countries (Austria or Slovakia).

**Course outline**

1. Basic concepts of Parliament (structure, functions)
2. History of Parliament in Europe and in the USA
3. Parliament and federalism, Parliament in multinational states, bicameralism
4. Parliament in the system of state organs, separation of powers
5. The rules of procedure of a parliament
6. Status of MPs
7. Legislative procedure
8. Parliamentary control Instruments (questions, debates, control of EU-affairs)
9. Parliamentary committees of inquiry
10. The European Parliament
11. Parliament as a source of information
12: Parliament as a cultural phenomenon (parliamentary architecture, sitting order, voting methods)

**Course material**

Further reading materials will be provided on the first meeting.

**Course material**

Further reading materials will be provided on the first meeting.