

## CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN CHALLENGES: DEMOCRATIC DOUBTS

Professor: **Jan Rovny**

Session: **July 2026**

Language of instruction: **English**

Number of hours of class: **2.5h**



### Objective of the Course

The main objective of the course is to introduce the complexity of social change in Europe and its implications for political competition and democracy in the context of European integration and globalization in general.



### Summary

This course introduces the dynamics of social change over the last three decades, and contextualizes how technological and social progress engendered political changes and tensions in Europe. It then discusses how these tensions threaten democratic functioning of European countries and of the European Union. It questions whether and how European democracies can sustain themselves in this changing environment.



### Professor's Biography



Jan Rovny is a professor of political science at the Centre d'études européennes at Sciences Po, Paris. His research concentrates on political competition in Europe with the aim of uncovering the political conflict lines in different countries. He explores the issues that political parties contest across the continent, the strategies that different parties follow, as well as the preferences and voting patterns of voters. Jan is one of the principal investigators of the Chapel Hill Expert Survey on party positioning. His recent book studies how ethnic mobilization influences political competition and democracy. He teaches courses in comparative politics and quantitative methodology, and acts as the co-director of graduate studies in comparative politics, and as the academic advisor to the Sciences Po Summer School.