Syllabus

Party Democracy in Post-Communist Europe - 56917

Last update 22-10-2015

**HU Credits:** 2

**Degree/Cycle:** 2nd degree (Master)

**Responsible Department:** political science

**Academic year:** 0

**Semester:** 1st Semester

**Teaching Languages:** English

**Campus:** Mt. Scopus

**Course/Module Coordinator:** Csaba Nikolenyi

**Coordinator Email:** Csaba.nikolenyi@concordia.ca

**Coordinator Office Hours:** Mondays 3 to 5 PM

**Teaching Staff:**
  Prof Csaba Nikolenyi
Course/Module description: 
This is an advanced course in the comparative party politics of the new democracies of post-communist Europe. Political parties have played a central role in managing the transition and the consolidation of democracy in the region over the past twenty-five years. The course explores reasons for and the consequences of the development of a diverse set of party systems in these new democracies.

Course/Module aims: 
To provide a theoretically grounded understanding of the diversity of party politics and party government in the region.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Understand theories of party systems; understand theories of institutional design; understand the comparative politics of Eastern Europe

Attendance requirements(%): 
mandatory

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: seminar

Course/Module Content: 
TRANSITIONS TO DEMOCRACY

1. Revolutions and Pacts: Transitions from Communism to Democracy

Introduction and preview. No assigned readings.

2. Legacies, Institutions and Europeanization: Determinants of Post-Communist Politics


POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

3. The New Constitutions of East-Central Europe


4. Electoral Systems in Post-Communist Europe: Causes


5. Electoral Systems in Post-Communist Europe: Consequences


6. IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS ON POST-COMMUNIST ELECTORAL SYSTEMS IN ASSIGNED COUNTRIES

7. Parties and the State


PAPER PROPOSAL DUE

SOCIAL CLEAVAGES AND POLITICAL PARTIES

8. Social Cleavages and Post-Communist Party Families


9. Radical Parties in the New Europe


BOOK REVIEW IS DUE

PARTIES IN ELECTORAL, LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POLITICS

10. Electoral Politics: Volatility and Turnout


11. Party Government and Coalition Politics


12. Parties, Presidents and Prime Ministers


Readings for book review


Required Reading:


Additional Reading Material:
**Course/Module evaluation:**

- End of year written/oral examination 0%
- Presentation 15%
- Participation in Tutorials 10%
- Project work 0%
- Assignments 0%
- Reports 0%
- Research project 45%
- Quizzes 0%
- Other 30%

**Book review**

**Additional information:**