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: