



Syllabus

Electoral Politics: Voters and Party Systems - 56354

Last update 30-10-2017

HU Credits: 2

Responsible Department: political science

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Orit Kedar

Coordinator Email: orit.kedar@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 12-13 or by appointment

*Teaching Staff:
Prof Orit Kedar*

Course/Module description:

The course discusses classic issues and current topics in electoral politics. The

focus is thematic, but the issues addressed will be discussed in the context of particular case studies. Some of the topics discussed are: party systems, political cleavages, representation, gender and vote choice, class and electoral politics, the extreme right, and electoral politics in multi-level governance systems.

Course/Module aims:

By the end of the course students will be familiar with main topics in electoral politics.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Ability to read and critically evaluate studies in electoral politics

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and class discussion

Course/Module Content:

2. October 31 Gender and voting

Why do women vote for the left more than men do today but they didn't forty years ago?

*Giger, Natalie. 2009. "Towards a Modern Gender Gap in Europe? A Comparative Analysis of Voting Behavior in 12 Countries." *The Social Science Journal*, Vol. 46: 474-492.*

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*Norrander, Barbara. 1999. "The Evolution of the Gender Gap." *Public Opinion Quarterly*, Vol. 63: 566-576.*

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Bartels, Larry M. 2006. "What's the Matter with What's the Matter with Kansas?" *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. Vol. 1: 201-226.

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Did change in racial attitudes lead to Obama's election?

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Philpot, Tasha S., Daron R. Shaw, and Ernest B. GcGowen. 2009. "Winning the Race: Black Voter Turnout in the 2008 Presidential Election." *Public Opinion Quarterly*, Vol. 73(5): 995-1022.

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What are some of the key principles (and) values behind different electoral systems? What are the tradeoffs between them?

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6. November 28 Votes, seats, and representation

How do votes translate into seats and, in turn, policy under different institutional regimes? Do some regimes represent voters' preferences better than others?

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Achen, Christopher H. 1978. "Measuring Representation." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 22 (3): 475-510.

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7. December 5 Parties in contemporary democracies

What is the role of parties in contemporary democracies? Can we have a functioning democracy without them? Do parties help or hurt democratic processes?

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*you may skip the second experiment described in the article.

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10. December 26 *Who votes (and who cares)?*

Why citizens participate in politics in general and in elections in particular? Who participates? Why do Americans participate in lower rates compared with citizens of other western democracies?

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Rejoinder:

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What is the role of elections under authoritarian regimes? How do elites manage them? How do voters think about them?

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Additional Reading Material:

See course site (Moodle)

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 90 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

None.