



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Electoral Politics: Voters and Party Systems - 56354

Last update 30-10-2017

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

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?

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

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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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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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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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Bargsted, Matias A., and Orit Kedar. 2009. "Coalition-Targeted Duvergerian Voting: How Expectations Affect Voter Choice under Proportional Representation." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 53(2): 307-323.

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Rejoinder:

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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.