Syllabus

ELECTORAL POLITICS: VOTERS AND INSTITUTIONS - 56838

Last update 08-02-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Political Science

Academic year: 1

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Orit Kedar

Coordinator Email: okedar@mscc.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 14-15

Teaching Staff: Prof Orit Kedar
**Course/Module description:**

The course will cover central themes in electoral politics. The main topics will include the impact of formal and informal political participation on national and local elections, how voting behavior is influenced by political context such as electoral systems and party politics, and how citizens choose to vote based on relevant political environments. Some of the main topics of study will be representation by gender and region, the party landscape, and electoral performance. Most of the studies covered in the course will be based on empirical studies, but some will also use case studies.

**Course/Module aims:**

Familiarity with central themes in current research of 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:**

- **Introduction**
- I Who votes for whom — some key demographics and beyond (weeks 2-4)
- II Party systems (weeks 5-6)
- III How voters vote: some specific considerations (weeks 7-10)
- IV Strategic voting (weeks 11-12)
- V Electoral districts, performance, and representation (week 13)

**Required Reading:**

- March 2 - Introduction

I. Who votes from whom: Some key demographics and beyond

March 9 - The changing gender gap in voting

Iversen, Torben, and Frances Rosenbluth. 2006. *The Political Economy of Gender: Explaining Cross-National Variation in the Gender Division of Labor and the Gender


Recommended:

March 16 - Why the poor vote against their class interests (or do they)


Recommended:

April 13 - Ethnicity and the vote


Recommended:
II. Party systems

April 27 - Party ideological placements


Recommended:

May 4 - The number of parties and party aggregation


Recommended:

III. How voters vote: some specific considerations

May 11 - Issue voting


Westholm, Anders. 1997. Distance vs. Direction: the Illusory Defeat of the

Recommended:

May 18 - Economic voting


Recommended:

May 25 - Party attachment


TBA

Recommended:
Cain, Bruce, and John Ferejohn. 1981. Party Identification in the U.S. and Britain.
Comparative Political Studies 14 (1): 31-47.

June 1 - Information


Recommended:

IV. Strategic voting

June 8 - Strategic voting under PFTP and PR


Recommended:
June 15 - Electoral cycles and split-ticket voting


Recommended:

V. Electoral districts, performance, and representation

June 22 - The advantages of districted systems


Additional Reading Material:
See reading list.

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 40 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 50 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
None